





ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY







# HISTORY

OF

# IROQUOIS COUNTY,

TOGETHER WITH

HISTORIC NOTES ON THE NORTHWEST,

GLEANED FROM EARLY AUTHORS, OLD MAPS AND MANUSCRIPTS,  
PRIVATE AND OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE, AND OTHER  
AUTHENTIC, THOUGH, FOR THE MOST PART,  
OUT-OF-THE-WAY SOURCES.

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WISCONSIN AND CHICAGO.

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WITH MAP AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

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*Library Historical Survey*

## PREFACE.

IN presenting the History of Iroquois County to the public the editors and publishers have had in view the preservation of certain valuable historical facts and information which without concentrated effort would not have been obtained but with the passing away of the old pioneers, the failure of memory, and the loss of public records and private diaries, would soon have been lost. This locality being comparatively new, we flatter ourselves that, with the zeal and industry displayed by our general and local historians, we have succeeded in rescuing from the fading years almost every scrap of history worthy of preservation. Doubtless the work is, in some respects, imperfect; — we do not present it as a model literary effort, but, in that which goes to make up a valuable book of reference for the present reader and the future historian, we assure our patrons that neither money nor time has been spared in the accomplishment of the work. Perhaps some errors will be found. With treacherous memories, personal, political and sectarian prejudices and preferences to contend against, it would be almost a miracle if no mistakes were made. We hope that even these defects which may be found to exist may be made available in so far as they may provoke discussion and call attention to corrections and additions necessary to perfect history.

The “Notes on the Northwest” — necessarily the foundation for the history of this part of the country, by H. W. Beekwith, of Danville — have already received the hearty endorsement of the press, of the historical societies of the northwestern states, and of the most accurate historians in the country. Mr. Beekwith has in his possession perhaps the most extensive private library of rare historical works bearing on the territory under consideration in the world, and from them he has drawn as occasion demanded.

"Iroquois County in the Great Rebellion," by A. L. Whitehall, we are certain, will be an agreeable surprise not only to the many old soldiers of the late war but to every one interested in that great event; and when we speak of Iroquois county we necessarily include almost every citizen, for hardly the man survives who does not take pride in the part that this county took in the suppression of that great iniquity. Mr. Whitehall has had in his mind the production of a complete war history, and our readers will agree with us when we say he has succeeded in an eminent degree.

The general county history, written by E. S. Ricker, Esq., will be found by our readers to be in a bold, fearless style, dealing in facts as so many causes, and pursuing effects to the end without turning to the right or left to accommodate the opinions or preferences of friend, party or sect.

The township histories, by Hon. C. F. McNeill, M. H. Messer, A. W. Kellogg, E. Whittlesey, C. W. Raymond, and S. Gray, will be found full of valuable recollections, which, but for their patient research, must soon have been lost forever, but which are now happily preserved for all ages to come. These gentlemen have placed upon Iroquois county and the adjacent country a mark which will not be obliterated, but which will grow brighter and broader as the years go by.

The biographical department contains the names and private sketches of nearly every person of importance in the county. A few persons, whose sketches we should be pleased to have presented, for various reasons refused or delayed furnishing us with the desired information, and in this matter only we feel that our work is incomplete. However, in most of such cases we have obtained, in regard to the most important persons, some items, and have woven them into the county or township sketches, so that, as we believe, we cannot be accused of either partiality or prejudice.

We had designed to give our patrons a book of about 800 pages, but the amount of interesting historical matter has been so great that we have had to extend the work to nearly one half more than the original design.

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# HISTORIC NOTES ON THE NORTHWEST.

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## CHAPTER I.

### TOPOGRAPHY.

THE reader will have a better understanding of the manner in which the territory, herein treated of, was discovered and subsequently occupied, if reference is made, in the outset, to some of its more important topographical features.

Indeed, it would be an unsatisfactory task to try to follow the routes of early travel, or to undertake to pursue the devious wanderings of the aboriginal tribes, or trace the advance of civilized society into a country, without some preliminary knowledge of its topography.

Looking upon a map of North America, it is observed that westward of the Alleghany Mountains the waters are divided into two great masses; the one, composed of waters flowing into the great northern lakes, is, by the river St. Lawrence, carried into the Atlantic Ocean; the other, collected by a multitude of streams spread out like a vast net over the surface of more than twenty states and several territories, is gathered at last into the Mississippi River, and thence discharged into the Gulf of Mexico.

As it was by the St. Lawrence River, and the great lakes connected with it, that the Northwest Territory was discovered, and for many years its trade mainly carried on, a more minute notice of this remarkable water communication will not be out of place. Jacques Cartier, a French navigator, having sailed from St. Malo, entered, on the 10th of August, 1535, the Gulf, which he had explored the year before, and named it the St. Lawrence, in memory of the holy martyr whose feast is celebrated on that day. This name was subsequently extended to the river. Previous to this it was called the River of Canada, the name given by the Indians to the whole country.\* The drainage of the St. Lawrence and the lakes extends through 14 degrees of longitude, and covers a distance of over two thousand miles. Ascending

\* Father Charlevoix' "History and General Description of New France;" Dr. John G. Shea's translation; vol. 1, pp. 37, 115.

this river, we behold it flanked with bold crags and sloping hillsides; its current beset with rapids and studded with a thousand islands; combining scenery of marvelous beauty and grandeur. Seven hundred and fifty miles above its mouth, the channel deepens and the shores recede into an expanse of water known as Lake Ontario.\*

Passing westward on Lake Ontario one hundred and eighty miles a second river is reached. A few miles above its entry into the lake, the river is thrown over a ledge of rock into a yawning chasm, one hundred and fifty feet below; and, amid the deafening noise and clouds of vapor escaping from the agitated waters is seen the great Falls of Niagara. At Buffalo, twenty-two miles above the falls, the shores of Niagara River recede and a second great inland sea is formed, having an average breadth of 40 miles and a length of 240 miles. This is Lake Erie. The name has been variously spelt,—Earie, Herie, Erige and Erike. It has also born the name of Conti.† Father Hennepin says: "The Hurons call it Lake Erige, or Erike, that is to say, the Lake of the Cat, and the inhabitants of Canada have softened the word to Erie;" *vide* "A New Discovery of a Vast Country in America," p. 77; London edition, 1698.

Hennepin's derivation is substantially followed by the more accurate and accomplished historian, Father Charlevoix, who at a later period, in 1721, in writing of this lake uses the following words: "The name it bears is that of an Indian nation of the Huron language, which was formerly settled on its banks and who have been entirely destroyed by the Iroquois. Erie in that language signifies cat, and in some accounts this nation is called the cat nation." He adds: "Some modern maps have given Lake Erie the name of Conti, but with no better success than the names of Conde, Tracy and Orleans which have been given to Lakes Huron, Superior and Michigan."‡

At the upper end of Lake Erie, to the southward, is Maumee Bay, of which more hereafter; to the northward the shores of the lake again

\* Ontario has been favored with several names by early authors and map makers. Champlain's map, 1632, lays it down as Lac St. Louis. The map prefixed to Colden's "History of the Five Nations" designates it as Cata-ra-qui, or Ontario Lake. The word is Huron-Iroquois, and is derived, in their language, from *Ontra*, a lake, and *io*, beautiful, the compound word meaning a beautiful lake; *vide* Letter of DuBois D'Avagour, August 16, 1663, to the Minister: Paris Documents, vol. 9, p. 16. Baron LaHontan, in his work and on the accompanying map, calls it Lake Frontenac; *vide* "New Voyages to North America," vol. 1, p. 219. And Frontenac, the name by which this lake was most generally designated by the early French writers, was given to it in honor of the great Count Frontenac, Governor-General of Canada.

† Narrative of Father Zenobia Membre, who accompanied Sieur La Salle in the voyage westward on this lake in 1679; *vide* "Discovery and Exploration of the Mississippi," by Dr. John G. Shea, p. 90. Barou La Hontan's "Voyages to North America," vol. 1, p. 217, also map prefixed; London edition, 1703. Cadwalder Colden's map, referred to in a previous note, designates it as "Lake Erie, or Okswego."

‡ Journal of a Voyage to North America, vol. 2, p. 2; London Edition, 1761.

approach each other and form a channel known as the River Detroit, a French word signifying a strait or narrow passage. Northward some twenty miles, and above the city of Detroit, the river widens into a small body of water called Lake St. Clair. The name as now written is incorrect: "we should either retain the French form, Claire, or take the English Clare. It received its name in honor of the founder of the Franciscan nuns, from the fact that La Salle reached it on the day consecrated to her."\* Northward some twelve miles across this lake the land again encroaches upon and contracts the waters within another narrow bound known as the Strait of St. Clair. Passing up this strait, northward about forty miles, Lake Huron is reached. It is 250 miles long and 190 miles wide, including Georgian Bay on the east, and its whole area is computed to be about 21,000 square miles. Its magnitude fully justified its early name, La Mer-douce, the Fresh Sea, on account of its extreme vastness.† The more popular name of Huron, which has survived all others, was given to it from the great Huron nation of Indians who formerly inhabited the country lying to the eastward of it. Indeed, many of the early French writers call it Lac des Hurons, that is, Lake of the Hurons. It is so laid down on the maps of Hennepin, La Hontan, Charlevoix and Colden in the volumes before quoted.

Going northward, leaving the Straits of Mackinaw, through which Lake Michigan discharges itself from the west, and the chain of Manitoulin Islands to the eastward, yet another river, the connecting link between Lake Huron and Superior, is reached. Its current is swift, and a mile below Lake Superior are the Falls, where the water leaps and tumbles down a channel obstructed by boulders and shoals, where, from time immemorial, the Indians of various tribes have resorted on account of the abundance of fish and the ease with which they are taken. Previous to the year 1670 the river was called the Sault, that is, the rapids, or falls. In this year Fathers Marquette and Dablon founded here the mission of "St. Marie du Sault" (St. Mary of the Falls), from which the modern name of the river, St. Mary's, is derived.‡ Recently the United States have perfected the ship canal cut in solid rock, around the falls, through which the largest vessels can now pass, from the one lake to the other.

Lake Superior, in its greatest length, is 360 miles, with a maximum breadth of 140, the largest of the five great American lakes, and the most extensive body of fresh water on the globe. Its form has been

\* Note by Dr. Shea, "Discovery and Exploration of the Mississippi," p. 143.

† Champlain's map, 1632. Also "Memoir on the Colony of Quebec," August 4, 1663: Paris Documents, vol. 9, p. 16.

‡ Charlevoix' "History of New France," vol. 2, p. 119; also note.



poetically and not inaccurately described by a Jesuit Father, whose account of it is preserved in the Relations for the years 1669 and 1670: "This lake has almost the form of a bended bow, and in length is more than 180 leagues. The southern shore is as it were the cord, the arrow being a long strip of land [Keweenaw Point] issuing from the southern coast and running more than 80 leagues to the middle of the lake." A glance on the map will show the aptness of the comparison. The name Superior was given to it by the Jesuit Fathers, "in consequence of its being *above* that of Lake Huron.\* It was also called Lake Tracy, after Marquis De Tracy, who was governor-general of Canada from 1663 to 1665. Father Claude Allouez, in his "Journal of Travels to the Country of the Ottawas," preserved in the Relations for the years 1666, 1667, says: "After passing through the St. Mary's River we entered the upper lake, which will hereafter bear the name of Monsieur Tracy, an acknowledgment of the obligation under which the people of this country are to him." The good father, however, was mistaken; the name Tracy only appears on a few ancient maps, or is perpetuated in rare volumes that record the almost forgotten labors of the zealous Catholic missionaries; while the earlier name of Lake "Superior" is familiar to every school-boy who has thumbed an atlas.

At the western extremity of Lake Superior enter the Rivers Bois-Brule and St. Louis, the upper tributaries of which have their sources on the northeasterly slope of a water-shed, and approximate very near the head-waters of the St. Croix, Prairie and Savannah Rivers, which, issuing from the opposite side of this same ridge, flow into the upper Mississippi.

The upper portions of Lakes Huron, Michigan, Green Bay, with their indentations, and the entire coast line, with the islands eastward and westward of the Straits of Mackinaw, are all laid down with quite a degree of accuracy on a map attached to the Relations of the Jesuits for the years 1670 and 1671, a copy of which is contained in Bancroft's History of the United States,† showing that the reverend fathers were industrious in mastering and preserving the geographical features of the wilderness they traversed in their holy calling.

Lake Michigan is the only one of the five great lakes that lays wholly within the United States,—the other four, with their connecting rivers and straits, mark the boundary between the Dominion of Canada and the United States. Its length is 320 miles; its average breadth 70, with a mean depth of over 1,000 feet. Its area is some

\* Relations of 1660 and 1669. † Vol. 3, p. 152; fourth edition.



22,000 square miles, being considerably more than that of Lake Huron and less than that of Lake Superior.

Michigan was the last of the lakes in order of discovery. The Hurons, christianized and dwelling eastward of Lake Huron, had been driven from their towns and cultivated fields by the Iroquois, and scattered about Mackinaw and the desolate coast of Lake Superior beyond, whither they were followed by their faithful pastors, the Jesuits, who erected new altars and gathered the remnants of their stricken followers about them ; all this occurred before the fathers had acquired any definite knowledge of Lake Michigan. In their mission work for the year 1666, it is referred to "as the Lake Illinouek, a great lake adjoining, or between, the lake of the Hurons and that of Green Bay, that had not [as then] come to their knowledge." In the Relation for the same year, it is referred to as "Lake Illeaouers," and "Lake Illinioues, as yet unexplored, though much smaller than Lake Huron, and that the Outagamies [the Fox Indians] call it Machi-hi-gan-ing." Father Hennepin says : "The lake is called by the Indians, 'Illinouek,' and by the French, 'Illinois,' and that the "Lake Illinois, in the native language, signifies the 'Lake of Men.'" He also adds in the same paragraph, that it is called by the Miamis, "Mischigonong, that is, the great lake."\* Father Marest, in a letter dated at Kaskaskia, Illinois, November 9, 1712, so often referred to on account of the valuable historical matter it contains, contracts the aboriginal name to *Michigan*, and is, perhaps, the first author who ever spelt it in the way that has become universal. He naïvely says, "that on the maps this lake has the name, without any authority, of the '*Lake of the Illinois*,' since the Illinois do not dwell in its neighborhood."†

\* Hennepin's "New Discovery of a Vast Country in America," vol. 1, p. 35. The name is derived from the two Algonquin words, Michi (mishi or missi), which signifies great, as it does, also, several or many, and Sagayigan, a lake; *vide* Henry's Travels, p. 37, and Alexander Mackenzie's Vocabulary of Algonquin Words.

† Kip's Early Jesuit Missions, p. 222.

## CHAPTER II.

### DRAINAGE OF THE ILLINOIS AND WABASH.

THE reader's attention will now be directed to the drainage of the Illinois and Wabash Rivers to the Mississippi, and that of the Maumee River into Lake Erie. The Illinois River proper is formed in Grundy county, Illinois, below the city of Joliet, by the union of the Kankakee and Desplaines Rivers. The latter rises in southeastern Wisconsin; and its course is almost south, through the counties of Cook and Will. The Kankakee has its source in the vicinity of South Bend, Indiana. It pursues a devious way, through marshes and low grounds, a southwesterly course, forming the boundary-line between the counties of Laporte, Porter and Lake on the north, and Stark, Jasper and Newton on the south; thence across the dividing line of the two states of Indiana and Illinois, and some fifteen miles into the county of Kankakee, at the confluence of the Iroquois River, where its direction is changed northwest to its junction with the Desplaines. The Illinois passes westerly into the county of Putnam, where it again turns and pursues a generally southwest course to its confluence with the Mississippi, twenty miles above the mouth of the Missouri. It is about five hundred miles long; is deep and broad, and in several places expands into basins, which may be denominated lakes. Steamers ascend the river, in high water, to La Salle; from whence to Chicago navigation is continued by means of the Illinois and Michigan Canal. The principal tributaries of the Illinois, from the north and right bank, are the Au Sable, Fox River, Little Vermillion, Bureau Creek, Kickapoo Creek (which empties in just below Peoria), Spoon River, Sugar Creek, and finally Crooked Creek. From the south or left bank are successively the Iroquois (into the Kankakee), Mazon Creek, Vermillion, Crow Meadow, Mackinaw, Sangamon, and Macoupin.

The Wabash issues out of a small lake, in Mercer county, Ohio, and runs a westerly course through the counties of Adams, Wells and Huntington in the state of Indiana. It receives Little River, just below the city of Huntington, and continues a westwardly course through the counties of Wabash, Miami and Cass. Here it turns more to the south, flowing through the counties of Carroll and Tippecanoe, and marking the boundary-line between the counties of Warren

and Vermillion on the west, and Fountain and Park on the east. At Covington, the county seat of Fountain county, the river runs more directly south, between the counties of Vermillion on the one side, and Fountain and Parke on the other, and through the county of Vigo, some miles below Terre Haute, from which place it forms the boundary-line between the states of Indiana and Illinois to its confluence with the Ohio.

Its principal tributaries from the north and west, or right bank of the stream, are Little River, Eel River, Tippecanoe, Pine Creek, Red Wood, Big Vermillion, Little Vermillion, Bruletis, Sugar Creek, Embarras, and Little Wabash. The streams flowing in from the south and east, or left bank of the river, are the Salamonie, Mississinewa, Pipe Creek, Deer Creek, Wildcat, Wea and Shawnee Creeks, Coal Creek, Sugar Creek, Raccoon Creek, Otter Creek, Busseron Creek, and White River.

There are several other, and smaller, streams not necessary here to notice, although they are laid down on earlier maps, and mentioned in old "Gazetteers" and "Emigrant's Guides."

The Maumee is formed by the St. Joseph and St. Mary's Rivers, which unite their waters at Ft. Wayne, Indiana. The St. Joseph has its source in Hillsdale county, Michigan, and runs southwesterly through the northwest corner of Ohio, through the county of De Kalb, and into the county of Allen, Indiana. The St. Mary's rises in Au Glaize county, Ohio, very near the little lake at the head of the Wabash, before referred to, and runs northwestwardly parallel with the Wabash, through the counties of Mercer, Ohio, and Adams, Indiana, and into Allen county to the place of its union with the St. Joseph, at Ft. Wayne. The principal tributaries of the Maumee are the Au Glaize from the south, Bear Creek, Turkey Foot Creek, Swan Creek from the north. The length of the Maumee River, from Ft. Wayne northeast to Maumee Bay at the west end of Lake Erie, is very little over 100 miles.

A noticeable feature relative to the territory under consideration, and having an important bearing on its discovery and settlement, is the fact that many of the tributaries of the Mississippi have their branches interwoven with numerous rivers draining into the lakes. They not infrequently issue from the same lake, pond or marsh situated on the summit level of the divide from which the waters from one end of the common reservoir drain to the Atlantic Ocean and from the other to the Gulf of Mexico. By this means nature herself provided navigable communication between the northern lakes and the Mississippi Valley. It was, however, only at times of the vernal floods that the



communication was complete. At other seasons of the year it was interrupted, when transfers by land were required for a short distance. The places where these transfers were made are known by the French term *portage*, which, like many other foreign derivatives, has become anglicized, and means a carrying place; because in low stages of water the canoes and effects of the traveler had to be carried around the dry marsh or pond from the head of one stream to the source of that beyond.

The first of these portages known to the Europeans, of which accounts have come down to us, is the portage of the Wisconsin, in the state of that name, connecting the Mississippi and Green Bay by means of its situation between the Wisconsin and Fox Rivers. The next is the portage of Chicago, uniting Chicago Creek, which empties into Lake Michigan at Chicago, and the Desplaines of the Illinois River. The third is the portage of the Kankakee, near the present city of South Bend, Indiana, which connects the St. Joseph of Lake Michigan with the upper waters of the Kankakee. And the fourth is the portage of the Wabash at Ft. Wayne, Indiana, between the Maumee and the Wabash, by way of Little River.

Though abandoned and their former uses forgotten in the advance of permanent settlement and the progress of more efficient means of commercial intercourse, these portages were the gateways of the French between their possessions in Canada and along the Mississippi.

Formerly the Northwest was a wilderness of forest and prairie, with only the paths of wild animals or the trails of roving Indians leading through tangled undergrowth and tall grasses. In its undeveloped form it was without roads, incapable of land carriage and could not be traveled by civilized man, even on foot, without the aid of a savage guide and a permit from its native occupants which afforded little or no security to life or property. For these reasons the lakes and rivers, with their connecting portages, were the only highways, and they invited exploration. They afforded ready means of opening up the interior. The French, who were the first explorers, at an early day, as we shall hereafter see, established posts at Detroit, at the mouth of the Niagara River, at Mackinaw, Green Bay, on the Illinois River, the St. Joseph's of Lake Michigan, on the Maumee, the Wabash, and at other places on the route of inter-lake and river communication. By means of having seized these strategical points, and their influence over the Indian tribes, the French monopolized the fur trade, and although *feebly* assisted by the home government, held the whole Mississippi Valley and regions of the lakes, for near three quarters of a century, against all efforts of the English colonies, eastward of the Alleghany ridge, who, assisted by England, sought to wrest it from their grasp.

Recurring to the old portage at Chicago, it is evident that at a comparatively recent period, since the glacial epoch, a large part of Cook county was under water. The waters of Lake Michigan, at that time, found an outlet through the Desplaines and Illinois Rivers into the Mississippi.\* This assertion is confirmed from the appearance of the whole channel of the Illinois River, which formerly contained a stream of much greater magnitude than now. The old beaches of Lake Michigan are plainly indicated in the ridges, trending westward several miles away from the present water line. The old state road, from Vincennes to Chicago, followed one of these ancient lake beaches from Blue Island into the city.

The subsidence of the lake must have been gradual, requiring many ages to accomplish the change of direction in the flow of its waters from the Mississippi to the St. Lawrence.

The character of the portage has also undergone changes within the memory of men still living. The excavation of the Illinois and Michigan Canal, and the drainage of the adjacent land by artificial ditches, has left little remaining from which its former appearance can now be recognized. Major Stephen H. Long, of the U. S. Topographical Engineers, made an examination of this locality in the year 1823, before it had been changed by the hand of man, and says, concerning it, as follows: "The south fork of Chicago River takes its rise about six miles from the fort, in a swamp, which communicates also with the Desplaines, one of the head branches of the Illinois. Having been informed that this route was frequently used by traders, and that it had been traversed by one of the officers of the garrison,—who returned with provisions from St. Louis a few days before our arrival at the fort,—we determined to ascend the Chicago River in order to observe this interesting division of waters. We accordingly left the fort on the 7th day of June, in a boat which, after having ascended the river four miles, we exchanged for a narrow pirogue that drew less water,—the stream we were ascending was very narrow, rapid and crooked, presenting a great fall. It so continued for about three miles, when we reached a sort of a swamp, designated by the Canadian voyagers under the name of '*Le Petit Lac.*'† Our course through this swamp, which extended three miles, was very much impeded by the high grass, weeds, etc., through which our pirogue passed with difficulty. Observing that our progress through the fen was slow, and the day being considerably advanced, we landed on the north bank, and continued our course along the edge of the swamp for about three

\* Geological Survey of Illinois, vol. 3, p. 240.

† What remains of this lake is now known by the name of *Mud Lake*.

miles, until we reached the place where the old portage road meets the current, which was here very distinct toward the south. We were delighted at beholding, for the first time, a feature so interesting in itself, but which we had afterward an opportunity of observing frequently on the route, viz, the division of waters starting from the same source, and running in two different directions, so as to become feeders of streams that discharge themselves into the ocean at immense distances apart. Lieut. Hobson, who accompanied us to the Desplaines, told us that he had traveled it with ease, in a boat loaded with lead and flour. The distance from the fort to the intersection of the portage road is about twelve or thirteen miles, and the portage road is about eleven miles long; the usual distance traveled by land seldom exceeds from four to nine miles; however, in very dry seasons it is said to amount to thirty miles, as the portage then extends to Mount Juliet, near the confluence of the Kankakee. Although at the time we visited it there was scarcely water enough to permit our pirogue to pass, we could not doubt that in the spring of the year the route must be a very eligible one. It is equally apparent that an expenditure, trifling when compared to the importance of the object, would again render Lake Michigan a tributary of the Gulf of Mexico." \*

\* Long's Expedition to the Source of the St. Peter's River, vol. 1, pp. 165, 166, 167. The State of Illinois begun work on the construction of a canal on this old portage on the 4th day of July, 1836, with great ceremony. Col. Guerdon S. Hubbard, still living, cast the first shovelful of earth out of it on this occasion. The work was completed in 1848. The canal was fed with water elevated by a pumping apparatus at Bridgeport. Recently the city of Chicago, at enormous expense sunk the bed of the canal to a depth that secures a flow of water directly from the lake, by means of which, the navigation is improved, and sewerage is obtained into the Illinois River.

## CHAPTER III.

### ANCIENT MAUMEE VALLEY.

WHAT has been said of the changes in the surface geology of Lake Michigan and the Illinois River may also be affirmed with respect to Lake Erie and the Maumee and Wabash Rivers. There are peculiarities which will arrest the attention, from a mere examination of the course of the Maumee and of the St. Joseph and St. Mary's Rivers, as they appear on the map of that part of Ohio and Indiana. The St. Joseph, after running southwest to its union with the St. Mary's at Ft. Wayne, as it were almost doubles back upon its former course, taking a northeast direction, forming the shape of a letter V, and after having flowed over two hundred miles is discharged at a point within less than fifty miles east of its source. It is evident, from an examination of that part of the country, that, at one time, the St. Joseph ran wholly to the southwest, and that the Maumee River itself, instead of flowing northeast into Lake Erie, as now, drained this lake southwest through the present valley of the Wabash. Then Lake Erie extended very nearly to Ft. Wayne, and its ancient shores are still plainly marked. The line of the old beach is preserved in the ridges running nearly parallel with, and not a great distance from, the St. Joseph and the St. Mary's Rivers. Professor G. K. Gilbert, in his report of the "Surface Geology of the Maumee Valley," gives the result of his examination of these interesting features, from which we take the following valuable extract.\*

"The upper (lake) beach consists, in this region, of a single bold ridge of sand, pursuing a remarkably straight course in a northeast and southwest direction, and crossing portions of Defiance, Williams and Fulton counties. It passes just west of Hicksville and Bryan; while Williams Center, West Unity and Fayette are built on it. When Lake Erie stood at this level, it was merged at the north with Lake Huron. Its southwest shore crossed Hancock, Putnam, Allen and Van Wert counties, and stretched northwest in Indiana, nearly to Ft. Wayne. The northwestern shore line, leaving Ohio near the south line of Defiance county, is likewise continued in Indiana, and the two converge at New Haven, six miles east of Ft. Wayne. They do not,

\* Geological Survey of Ohio, vol. 1, p. 550.



however, unite, but, instead, become parallel, and are continued as the sides of a broad watercourse, through which the great lake basin then discharged its surplus waters, southwestwardly, into the valley of the Wabash River, and thence to the Mississippi. At New Haven, this channel is not less than a mile and a half broad, and has an average depth of twenty feet, with sides and bottom of drift. For twenty-five miles this character continues, and there is no notable fall. Three miles above Huntington, Indiana, however, the drift bottom is replaced by a floor of Niagara limestone, and the descent becomes comparatively quite rapid. At Huntington, the valley is walled, on one side at least, by rock *in situ*. In the eastern portion of this ancient river-bed, the Maumee and its branches have cut channels fifteen to twenty-five feet deep, without meeting the underlying limestone. Most of the interval from Ft. Wayne to Huntington is occupied by a marsh, over which meanders Little River, an insignificant stream whose only claim to the title of river seems to lie in the magnitude of the deserted channel of which it is sole occupant. At Huntington, the Wabash emerges from a narrow cleft, of its own carving, and takes possession of the broad trough to which it was once an humble tributary."

Within the personal knowledge of men, the Wabash River has been, and is, only a rivulet, a shriveled, dried up representative in comparison with its greatness in pre-historic times, when it bore in a broader channel the waters of Lakes Erie and Huron, a mighty flood, southward to the Ohio. Whether the change in the direction of the flow of Lakes Erie, Huron and Michigan toward the River St. Lawrence, instead of through the Wabash and Illinois Rivers respectively, is because hemispheric depression has taken place more rapidly in the vicinity of the lakes than farther southward, or that the earth's crust south of the lakes has been arched upward by subterraneous influences, and thus caused the lakes to recede, or if the change has been produced by depression in one direction and elevation in the other, combined, is not our province to discuss. The fact, however, is well established by the most abundant and conclusive evidence to the scientific observer.

The portage, or carrying place, of the Wabash,\* as known to the early explorers and traders, between the Maumee and Wabash, or rather the head of Little River, called by the French "La Petit Rivière," commenced directly at Ft. Wayne; although, in certain seasons of the year, the waters approach much nearer and were united by a low piece

\* Schoolcraft's Travels in the Central Portions of the Mississippi Valley," in the year 1821, pp. 90, 91. In this year, Mr. Schoolcraft made an examination of the locality, with a view to furnish the public information on the practicability of a canal to unite the waters of the Maumee and the Wabash. It was at a time when great interest existed through all parts of the country on all subjects of internal navigation.



of ground or marsh (an arm or bay of what is now called Bear Lake), where the two streams flow within one hundred and fifty yards of each other and admitted of the passage of light canoes from the one to the other.

The Miami Indians knew the value of this portage, and it was a source of revenue to them, aside from its advantages in enabling them to exercise an influence over adjacent tribes. The French, in passing from Canada to New Orleans, and Indian traders going from Montreal and Detroit, to the Indians south and westward, went and returned by way of Ft. Wayne, where the Miamis, kept carts and pack-horses, with a corps of Indians to assist in carrying canoes, furs and merchandise around the portage, for which they charged a commission. At the great treaty of Greenville, 1795, where General Anthony Wayne met the several Wabash tribes, he insisted, as one of the fruits of his victory over them, at the Fallen Timbers, on the Maumee, the year before, that they should cede to the United States a piece of ground six miles square, where the fort, named in honor of General Wayne, had been erected after the battle named, and on the site of the present city of Ft. Wayne; and, also, a piece of territory two miles square at the carrying place. The distinguished warrior and statesman, "Mishe-kun-nogh-quah" (as he signs his name at this treaty), or the Little Turtle on behalf of his tribe, objected to a relinquishment of their right to their ancient village and its portage, and in his speech to General Wayne said: "Elder Brother,—When our forefathers saw the French and English at the Miami village—that '*glorious gate*' which your younger brothers [meaning the Miamis] had the happiness to own, and through which all the good words of our chiefs had to pass [that is, messages between the several tribes] from north to south and from east to west, the French and English never told us they wished to purchase our lands from us. The next place you pointed out was the Little River, and said you wanted two miles square of that place. This is a request that our fathers the French or British never made of us; it was always ours. This carrying place has heretofore proved, in a great degree, the subsistence of your brothers. That place has brought to us, in the course of one day, the amount of one hundred dollars. Let us both own this place and enjoy in common the advantages it affords." The Little Turtle's speech availed nothing.\*

The St. Joseph of Lake Michigan, a fine stream of uniform, rapid current, reaches its most southerly position near the city of South Bend, Indiana,—the city deriving its name from the *bend* of the river;

\* Minutes of the Treaty of Greenville: American State Papers on Indian Affairs. vol. 1, pp. 576, 578.

here the river turns northward, reënters the State of Michigan and discharges into the lake. West of the city is Lake Kankakee, from which the Kankakee River takes its rise. The distance intervening between the head of this little lake and the St. Joseph is about two miles, over a piece of marshy ground, where the elevation is so slight "that in the year 1832 a Mr. Alexander Croquillard dug a race, and secured a flow of water from the lake to the St. Joseph, of sufficient power to run a grist and saw mill." \*

This is the portage of the Kankakee, a place conspicuous for its historical reminiscences. It was much used, and offered a choice of routes to the Illinois River, and also to the Wabash, by a longer land-carriage to the upper waters of the Tippecanoe. A memoir on the Indians of Canada, etc., prepared in the year 1718 (Paris Documents, vol. 1, p. 889), says: "The river St. Joseph is south of Lake Michigan, formerly the Lake of the Illinois; many take this river to pass to the Rocks [as Fort St. Louis, situated on 'Starved Rock' in La Salle county, Illinois, was sometimes called], because it is convenient, and they thereby avoid the portages '*des Chaines*' and '*des Perches*,'"—two long, difficult carrying places on the Desplaines, which had to be encountered in dry seasons, on the route by the way of Chicago Creek.

The following description of the Kankakee portage, and its adjacent surroundings, is as that locality appeared to Father Hennepin, when he was there with La Salle's party of voyagers two hundred years ago the coming December: "The next morning (December 5, 1679) we joined our men at the portage, where Father Gabriel had made the day before several crosses upon the trees, that we might not miss it another time." The voyagers had passed above the portage without being aware of it, as the country was all strange to them. We found here a great quantity of horns and bones of wild oxen, buffalo, and also some canoes the savages had made with the skins of beasts, to cross the river with their provisions. This portage lies at the farther end of a champaign; and at the other end to the west lies a village of savages,—Miamis, Mascoutines and Oiatinons (Weas), who live together. "The river of the Illinois has its source near that village, and springs out of some marshy lands that are so quaking that one can scarcely walk over them. The head of the river is only a league and a half from that of the Miamis (the St. Joseph), and so our portage was not long. We marked the way from place to place, with some trees, for the convenience of those we expected after us; and left at the portage as well as at Fort

\* Prof. G. M. Levette's Report on the Geology of St. Joseph County: Geological Survey of Indiana for the year 1873, p. 459.

Miamis (which they had previously erected at the mouth of the St. Joseph), letters hanging down from the trees, containing M. La Salle's instructions to our pilot, and the other five-and-twenty men who were to come with him." The pilot had been sent back from Mackinaw with La Salle's ship, the Griffin, loaded with furs; was to discharge the cargo at the fort below the mouth of Niagara River, and then bring the ship with all dispatch to the St. Joseph.

"The Illinois River (continues Hennepin's account) is navigable within a hundred paces from its source,—I mean for canoes of barks of trees, and not for others,—but increases so much a little way from thence, that it is as deep and broad as the Meuse and the Sambre joined together. It runs through vast marshes, and although it be rapid enough, it makes so many turnings and windings, that after a whole day's journey we found that we were hardly two leagues from the place we left in the morning. That country is nothing but marshes, full of alder trees and bushes; and we could have hardly found, for forty leagues together, any place to plant our cabins, had it not been for the frost, which made the earth more firm and consistent."

## CHAPTER IV.

### RAINFALL.

AN interesting topic connected with our rivers is the question of rainfall. The streams of the west, unlike those of mountainous districts, which are fed largely by springs and brooks issuing from the rocks, are supplied mostly from the clouds. It is within the observation of persons who lived long in the valleys of the Wabash and Illinois, or along their tributaries, that these streams apparently carry a less volume of water than formerly. Indeed, the water-courses seem to be gradually drying up, and the whole surface of the country drained by them has undergone the same change. In early days almost every land-owner on the prairies had upon his farm a pond that furnished an unfailing supply of water for his live stock the year around. These never went dry, even in the driest seasons.

Formerly the Wabash afforded reliable steamboat navigation as high up as La Fayette. In 1831, between the 5th of March and the 16th of April, fifty-four steamboats arrived and departed from Vincennes. In the months of February, March and April of the same year, there were sixty arrivals and departures from La Fayette, then a village of only three or four hundred houses; many of these boats were large side-wheel steamers, built for navigating the Ohio and Mississippi, and known as New Orleans or lower river boats.\* The writer has the concurrent evidence of scores of early settlers with whom he has conversed that formerly the Vermilion, at Danville, had to be ferried on an average six months during the year, and the river was considered low when it could be forded at this place without water running into the wagon bed. Now it is fordable at all times, except when swollen with freshets, which now subside in a very few days, and often within as many hours. Doubtless, the same facts can be affirmed of the many other tributaries of the Illinois and Wabash whose names have been already given.

The early statutes of Illinois and Indiana are replete with special laws, passed between the years 1825 and 1840, when the people of these two states were crazed over the question of internal navigation, providing enactments and charters for the slack-water improvement of

\* Tanner's View of the Mississippi, published in 1832, p. 154.



hundreds of streams whose insignificance have now only a dry bed, most of the year, to indicate that they were ever dignified with such legislation and invested with the promise of bearing upon their bosoms a portion of the future internal commerce of the country.

It will not do to assume that the seeming decrease of water in the streams is caused by a diminution of rain. The probabilities are that the annual rainfall is greater in Indiana and Illinois than before their settlement with a permanent population. The "settling up" of a country, tilling its soil, planting trees, constructing railroads, and erecting telegraph lines, all tend to induce moisture and produce changes in the electric and atmospheric currents that invite the clouds to precipitate their showers. Such has been the effect produced by the hand of man upon the hitherto arid plains of Kansas and Nebraska. Indeed, at an early day some portions of Illinois were considered as uninhabitable as western Kansas and Nebraska were supposed, a few years ago, to be on account of the prevailing drouths. That part of the state lying between the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers, south of a line running from the Mississippi, between Rock Island and Mercer counties, east to the Illinois, set off for the benefit of the soldiers of the War of 1812, and for that reason called the "Military Tract," except that part of it lying more immediately near the rivers named, was laid under the bane of a drouth-stricken region. Mr. Lewis A. Beck, a shrewd and impartial observer, and a gentleman of great scientific attainments,\* was through the "military tract" shortly after it had been run out into sections and townships by the government, and says concerning it, "The northern part of the tract is not so favorable for settlement. The prairies become very extensive and are badly watered. In fact, this last is an objection to the whole tract. In dry seasons it is not unusual to walk through beds of the largest streams without finding a drop of water. It is not surprising that a country so far distant from the sea and drained by such large rivers, which have a course of several thousand miles before they reach the great reservoir, should not be well watered. This, we observe, is the case with all fine-flowing streams of the highlands, whereas those of the Champaign and prairies settle in the form of ponds, which stagnate and putrify. Besides, on the same account there are very few heavy rains in the summer; and hence during that season water is exceedingly scarce. The Indians, in their journeys, pass by places where they know there are ponds, but generally they are under the necessity of carrying water in bladders. This drouth is not confined to the 'military tract,' but in some seasons is very general. During the summer of 1820 it was truly alarming;

\* Beck's Illinois and Missouri Gazetteer, published in 1823, pp. 79, 80.

travelers, in many instances, were obliged to pass whole days, in the warmest weather, without being able to procure a cupful of water for themselves or their horses, and that which they occasionally did find was almost putrid. It may be remarked, however, that such seasons rarely occur; but on account of its being washed by rivers of such immense length this section of the country is peculiarly liable to suffer from excessive drouth." The millions of bushels of grain annually raised in, and the vast herds of cattle and other live stock that are fattened on, the rich pastures of Bureau, Henry, Stark, Peoria, Knox, Warren, and other counties lying wholly or partially within the "military tract," illustrate an increase and uniformity of rainfall since the time Professor Beck recorded his observations. In no part of Illinois are the crops more abundant and certain, and less liable to suffer from excessive drouth, than in the "military tract." The apparent decrease in the volume of water carried by the Wabash and its tributaries is easily reconciled with the theory of an increased rainfall since the settlement of the country. These streams for the most part have their sources in ponds, marshes and low grounds. These basins, covering a great extent of the surface of the country, served as reservoirs; the earth was covered with a thick turf that prevented the water penetrating the ground; tall grasses in the valleys and about the margin of the ponds impeded the flow of water, and fed it out gradually to the rivers. In the timber the marshes were likewise protected from a rapid discharge of their contents by the trunks of fallen trees, limbs and leaves.

Since the lands have been reduced to cultivation, millions of acres of sod have been broken by the plow, a spongy surface has been turned to the heavens and much of the rainfall is at once soaked into the ground. The ponds and low grounds have been drained. The tall grasses with their mat of penetrating roots have disappeared from the swales. The brooks and drains, from causes partially natural, or artificially aided by man, have cut through the ancient turf and made well defined ditches. The rivers themselves have worn a deeper passage in their beds. By these means the water is now soon collected from the earth's surface and carried off with increased velocity. Formerly the streams would sustain their volume continuously for weeks. Hence much of the rainfall is directly taken into the ground, and only a portion of it now finds its way to the rivers, and that which does has a speedier exit. Besides this, settlement of and particularly the growing of trees on the prairies and the clearing out of the excess of forests in the timbered districts, tends to distribute the rainfall more evenly throughout the year, and in a large degree prevents the recurrence of those extremes of drouth and flood with which this country was formerly visited.

## CHAPTER V.

### ORIGIN OF THE PRAIRIES.

THE prairies have ever been a wonder, and their origin the theme of much curious speculation. The vast extent of these natural meadows would naturally excite curiosity, and invite the many theories which, from time to time, have been advanced by writers holding conflicting opinions as to the manner in which they were formed. Major Stoddard, H. M. Brackenridge and Governor Reynolds, whose personal acquaintance with the prairies, eastward of the Mississippi, extended back prior to the year 1800, and whose observations were supported by the experience of other contemporaneous residents of the west, held that the prairies were caused by fire. The prairies are covered with grass, and were probably occasioned by the ravages of fire; because wherever copses of trees were found on them, the grounds about them are low and too moist to admit the fire to pass over it; and because it is a common practice among the Indians and other hunters to set the woods and prairies on fire, by means of which they are able to kill an abundance of game. They take secure stations to the leeward, and the fire drives the game to them.\*

The plains of Indiana and Illinois have been mostly produced by the same cause. They are very different from the Savannahs on the seaboard and the immense plains of the upper Missouri. In the prairies of Indiana I have been assured that the woods in places have been known to recede, and in others to increase, within the recollection of the old inhabitants. In moist places, the woods are still standing, the fire meeting here with obstruction. Trees, if planted in these prairies, would doubtless grow. In the islands, preserved by accidental causes, the progress of the fire can be traced; the first burning would only scorch the outer bark of the tree; this would render it more susceptible to the next, the third would completely kill. I have seen in places, at present completely prairie, pieces of burnt trees, proving that the prairie had been caused by fire. The grass is generally very luxuriant, which is not the case in the plains of the Missouri. There may, doubtless, be spots where the proportion of salts or other bodies may be such as to favor the growth of grass only.†

\* Sketches of Louisiana, by Major Amos Stoddard, p. 213.

† Brackenridge's Views of Louisiana, p. 108.



Governor Reynolds, who came to Illinois at the age of thirteen, in the year 1800, and lived here for over sixty years, the greater portion of his time employed in a public capacity, roving over the prairies in the Indian border wars or overseeing the affairs of a public and busy life, in his interesting autobiography, published in 1855, says: "Many learned essays are written on the origin of the prairies, but any attentive observer will come to the conclusion that it is fire burning the strong, high grass that caused the prairies. I have witnessed the growth of the forest in these southern counties of Illinois, and know there is more timber in them now than there was forty or fifty years before. The obvious reason is, the fire is kept out. This is likewise the reason the prairies are generally the most fertile soil. The vegetation in them was the strongest and the fires there burnt with the most power. The timber was destroyed more rapidly in the fertile soil than in the barren lands. It will be seen that the timber in the north of the state, is found only on the margins of streams and other places where the prairie fires could not reach it."

The later and more satisfactory theory is, that the prairies were formed by the action of water instead of fire. This position was taken and very ably discussed by that able and learned writer, Judge James Hall, as early as 1836. More recently, Prof. Lesquereux prepared an article on the origin and formation of the prairies, published at length in vol. 1, Geological Survey of Illinois, pp. 238 to 254, inclusive; and Dr. Worthen, the head of the Illinois Geological Department, referring to this article and its author, gives to both a most flattering indorsement. Declining to discuss the comparative merits of the various theories as to the formation of the prairies, the doctor "refers the reader to the very able chapter on the subject by Prof. Lesquereux, whose thorough acquaintance, both with fossil and recent botany, and the general laws which govern the distribution of the ancient as well as the recent flora, entitles his opinion to our most profound consideration." \*

Prof. Lesquereux' article is exhaustive, and his conclusions are summed up in the declaration "that all the prairies of the Mississippi Valley have been formed by the slow recessions of waters of various extent; first transformed into swamps, and in the process of time drained and dried; and that the high rolling prairies, and those of these bottoms along the rivers as well, are all the result of the same cause, and form one whole, indivisible system."

Still later, another eminent writer, Hon. John D. Caton, late Judge of the Supreme Court of Illinois, has given the result of his observa-

\* Chap. 1, p. 10, Geology of Illinois, by Dr. Worthen; vol. 1, Illinois Geological Survey.



tions. While assenting to the received conclusion that the prairies—the land itself—have been formed under water, except the decomposed animal and vegetable matter that has been added to the surface of the lands since their emergence, the judge dissents from Prof. Lesquereux, in so far as the latter holds that the presence of ulmic acid and other unfavorable chemicals in the soil of the prairies, rendered them unfit for the growth of trees; and in extending his theory to the prairies on the uplands, as well as in their more level and marshy portions. The learned judge holds to the popular theory that the most potent cause in keeping the prairies as such, and retarding and often destroying forest growth on them, is the agency of fire. Whatever may have been the condition of the ground when the prairie lands first emerged from the waters, or the chemical changes they may have since undergone, how many years the process of vegetable growth and decay may have gone on, adding their deposits of rich loam to the original surface, making the soil the most fertile in the world, is a matter of mere speculation; certain it is, however, that ever within the knowledge of man the prairies have possessed every element of soil necessary to insure a rapid and vigorous growth of forest trees, wherever the germ could find a lodgment and their tender years be protected against the one formidable enemy, fire. Judge Caton gives the experience of old settlers in the northern part of the state, similar to that of Brackenridge and Reynolds, already quoted, where, on the Vermillion River of the Illinois, and also in the neighborhood of Ottawa many years ago, fires occurred under the observation of the narrators, which utterly destroyed, root and branch, an entire hardwood forest, the prairie taking immediate possession of the burnt district, clothing it with grasses of its own; and in a few years this forest land, reclaimed to prairie, could not be distinguished from the prairie itself, except from its greater luxuriance.

Judge Caton's illustration of how the forests obtain a foot-hold in the prairies is so aptly expressed, and in such harmony with the experience of every old settler on the prairies of eastern Illinois and western Indiana, that we quote it.

“The cause of the absence of trees on the upland prairies is the problem most important to the agricultural interests of our state, and it is the inquiry which alone I propose to consider, but cannot resist the remark that wherever we do find timber throughout this broad field of prairie, it is always in or near the humid portions of it,—as along the margins of streams, or upon or near the springy uplands. Many most luxuriant groves are found on the highest portions of the uplands, but always in the neighborhood of water. For a remarkable

example I may refer to that great chain of groves extending from and including the Au Sable Grove on the east and Holderman's Grove on the west, in Kendall county, occupying the high divide between the waters of the Illinois and the Fox Rivers. In and around all the groves flowing springs abound, and some of them are separated by marshes, to the very borders of which the great trees approach, as if the forest were ready to seize upon each yard of ground as soon as it is elevated above the swamps. Indeed, all our groves seem to be located where water is so disposed as to protect them, to a great or less extent, from the prairie fire, although not so situated as to irrigate them. If the head-waters of the streams on the prairies are most frequently without timber, so soon as they have attained sufficient volume to impede the progress of the fires, with very few exceptions we find forests on their borders, becoming broader and more vigorous as the magnitude of the streams increase. It is manifest that land located on the borders of streams which the fire cannot pass are only exposed to *one-half* the fires to which they would be exposed but for such protection. This tends to show, at least, that if but one-half the fires that have occurred had been kindled, the arboraceous growth could have withstood their destructive influences, and the whole surface of what is now prairie would be forest. Another confirmatory fact, patent to all observers, is, that the prevailing winds upon the prairies, especially in the autumn, are from the *west*, and these give direction to the prairie fires. Consequently, the lands on the westerly sides of the streams are the most exposed to the fires, and, as might be expected, we find much the most timber on the *easterly* sides of the streams."

"Another fact, always a subject of remark among the dwellers on the prairies, I regard as conclusive proof that the prairie soils are peculiarly adapted to the growth of trees is, that wherever the fires have been kept from the groves by the settlers, they have rapidly encroached upon the prairies, unless closely depastured by the farmers' stock, or prevented by cultivation. This fact I regard as established by careful observation of more than thirty-five years, during which I have been an interested witness of the settlement of this country,—from the time when a few log cabins, many miles apart, built in the borders of the groves, alone were met with, till now nearly the whole of the great prairies in our state, at least, are brought under cultivation by the industry of the husbandman. Indeed, this is a fact as well recognized by the settlers as that corn will grow upon the prairies when properly cultivated. Ten years ago I heard the observation made by intelligent men, that within the preceding twenty-five years the area of the timber in the prairie portions of the state had actually doubled by the sponta-

neous extension of the natural groves. However this may be, certain it is that the encroachments of the timber upon the prairies have been universal and rapid, wherever not impeded by fire or other physical causes."

When Europeans first landed in America, as they left the dense forests east of the Alleghanies and went west over the mountains into the valleys beyond, anywhere between Lake Erie and the fortieth degree of latitude, approaching the Scioto River, they would have seen small patches of country destitute of timber. These were called openings. As they proceeded farther toward the Wabash the number and area of these openings or barrens would increase. These last were called by the English savannahs or meadows, and by the French, prairies. Westward of the Wabash, except occasional tracts of timbered lands in northern Indiana, and fringes of forest growth along the intervening water-courses, the prairies stretch westward continuously across a part of Indiana and the whole of Illinois to the Mississippi. Taking the line of the Wabash railway, which crosses Illinois in its greatest breadth, and beginning in Indiana, where the railway leaves the timber, west of the Wabash near Marshfield, the prairie extends to Quincy, a distance of more than two hundred and fifty miles, and its continuity the entire way is only broken by four strips of timber along four streams running at right angles with the route of the railway, namely the timber on the Vermillion River, between Danville and the Indiana state-line, the Sangamon, seventy miles west of Danville near Decatur, the Sangamon again a few miles east of Springfield, and the Illinois River at Meredosia; and all of the timber at the crossing of these several streams, if put together, would not aggregate fifteen miles against the two hundred and fifty miles of prairie. Taking a north and south direction and parallel with the drainage of the rivers, one could start near Ashley, on the Illinois Central railway, in Washington county, and going northward, nearly on an air-line, keeping on the divide between the Kaskaskia and Little Wabash, the Sangamon and the Vermillion, the Iroquois and the Vermillion of the Illinois, crossing the latter stream between the mouths of the Fox and Du Page and travel through to the state of Wisconsin, a distance of nearly three hundred miles, without encountering five miles of timber during the whole journey. Mere figures of distances across the "Grand Prairie," as this vast meadow was called by the old settlers, fail to give an adequate idea of its magnitude.

Let the reader, in fancy, go back fifty or sixty years, when there were no farms between the settlement on the North Arm Prairie, in Edgar county, and Ft. Clark, now Peoria, on the Illinois River, or



between the Salt Works, west of Danville, and Ft. Dearborn, where Chicago now is, or when there was not a house between the Wabash and Illinois Rivers in the direction of La Fayette and Ottawa; when there was not a solitary road to mark the way; when Indian trails alone led to unknown places, where no animals except the wild deer and slinking wolf would stare, the one with timid wonder, the other with treacherous leer, upon the venturesome traveler; when the gentle winds moved the supple grasses like waves of a green sea under the summer's sky;—the beauty, the grandeur and solitude of the prairies may be *imagined* as they were a *reality* to the pioneer when he first beheld them.

There is an essential difference between the prairies eastward of the Mississippi and the great plains westward necessary to be borne in mind. The western plains, while they present a seeming level appearance to the eye, rise rapidly to the westward. From Kansas City to Pueblo the ascent is continuous; beyond Ft. Dodge, the plains, owing to their elevation and consequent dryness of the atmosphere and absence of rainfall, produce a thin and stunted vegetation. The prairies of Illinois and Indiana, on the contrary, are much nearer the sea-level, where the moisture is greater. There were many ponds and sloughs which aided in producing a humid atmosphere, all which induced a rank growth of grasses. All early writers, referring to the vegetation of our prairies, including Fathers Hennepin, St. Cosme, Charlevoix and others, who recorded their personal observations nearly two hundred years ago, as well as later English and American travelers, bear uniform testimony to the fact of an unusually luxuriant growth of grasses.

Early settlers, in the neighborhood of the author, all bear witness to the rank growth of vegetation on the prairies before it was grazed by live stock, and supplanted with shorter grasses, that set in as the country improved. Since the organization of Edgar county in 1823,—of which all the territory north to the Wisconsin line was then a part,—on the level prairie between the present sites of Danville and Georgetown, the grass grew so high that it was a source of amusement to tie the tops over the withers of a horse, and in places the height of the grass would nearly obscure both horse and rider from view. This was not a slough, but on arable land, where some of the first farms in Vermillion county were broken out. On the high rolling prairies the vegetation was very much shorter, though thick and compact; its average height being about two feet.

The prairie fires have been represented in exaggerated pictures of men and wild animals retreating at full speed, with every mark of ter-



ror, before the devouring element. Such pictures are overdrawn. Instances of loss of human life, or animals, may have sometimes occurred. The advance of the fire is rapid or slow, as the wind may be strong or light; the flames leaping high in the air in their progress over level ground, or burning lower over the uplands. When a fire starts under favorable causes, the horizon gleams brighter and brighter until a fiery redness rises above its dark outline, while heavy, slow-moving masses of dark clouds curve upward above it. In another moment the blaze itself shoots up, first at one spot then at another, advancing until the whole horizon extending across a wide prairie is clothed with flames, that roll and curve and dash onward and upward like waves of a burning ocean, lighting up the landscape with the brilliancy of noon-day. A roaring, crackling sound is heard like the rushing of a hurricane. The flame, which in general rises to the height of twenty feet, is seen rolling its waves against each other as the liquid, fiery mass moves forward, leaving behind it a blackened surface on the ground, and long trails of murky smoke floating above. A more terrific sight than the burning prairies in early days can scarcely be conceived. Woe to the farmer whose fields extended into the prairie, and who had suffered the tall grass to grow near his fences; the labor of the year would be swept away in a few hours. Such accidents occasionally occurred, although the preventive was simple. The usual remedy was to set fire against fire, or to burn off a strip of grass in the vicinity of the improved ground, a beaten road, the treading of domestic animals about the inclosure of the farmer, would generally afford protection. In other cases a few furrows would be plowed around the field, or the grass closely mowed between the outside of the fence and the open prairie.\*

No wonder that the Indians, noted for their naming a place or thing from some of its distinctive peculiarities, should have called the prairies Mas-ko-tia, or the place of fire. In the ancient Algonquin tongue, as well as in its more modern form of the Ojibbeway (or Chippeway, as this people are improperly designated), the word scoutay means fire; and in the Illinois and Pottowatamie, kindred dialects, it is scotte and seutay, respectively.† It is also eminently characteristic that the Indians, who lived and hunted exclusively upon the prairies, were known among their red brethren as "Maskoutes," rendered by the French writers, Maskoutines, or People of the Fire or Prairie Country.

North of a line drawn west from Vincennes, Illinois is wholly

\* Judge James Hall: *Tales of the Border*, p. 244; *Statistics of the West*, p. 82.

† Gallatin's *Synopsis of the Indian Tribes*, etc.

prairie,—always excepting the thin curtain of timber draping the water-courses; and all that part of Indiana lying north and west of the Wabash, embracing fully one-third of the area of the state, is essentially so.

Of the twenty-seven counties, in Indiana, lying wholly or partially west and north of the Wabash, twelve of them are prairie; seven are mixed prairies, barrens and timber, the barrens and prairie predominating. In five, the barrens, with the prairies, are nearly equal to the timber, while only three of the counties can be characterized as heavily timbered. And wherever timber does occur in these twenty-seven counties, it is found in localities favorable to its protection against the ravages of fire, by the proximity of intervening lakes, marshes or water-courses. We cannot know how long it took the forest to advance from the Scioto; how often capes and points of trees, like skirmishers of an army, secured a foothold to the eastward of the lakes and rivers of Ohio and Indiana, only to be driven back again by the prairie fires advancing from the opposite direction; or conceive how many generations of forest growth were consumed by the prairie fires before the timber-line was pushed westward across the state of Ohio, and through Indiana to the banks of the Wabash.

The prairies of Illinois and Indiana were born of water and preserved by fire for the children of civilized men, who have come and taken possession of them. The manner of their coming, and the difficulties that befell them on the way, will hereafter be considered. The white man, like the forests, advanced from the east. The red man, like the prairie fires, as we shall hereafter see, came from the west.

## CHAPTER VI.

### EARLY DISCOVERIES.

HAVING given a description of the lakes and rivers, and noticed some of the more prominent features that characterize the physical geography of the territory within the scope of our inquiry, and the parts necessarily connected with it, forming, as it were, the outlines or ground plan of its history, we will now proceed to fill in the framework, with a narration of its discovery. Jacques Cartier, as already intimated in a note on a preceding page, ascended the St. Lawrence River in 1535. He sailed up the stream as far as the great Indian village of Hoc Lelaga, situated on an island at the foot of the mountain, styled by him Mont Royal, now called Montreal, a name since extended to the whole island. The country thus discovered was called New France. Later, and in the year 1598, France, after fifty years of domestic troubles, recovered her tranquillity, and, finding herself once more equal to great enterprises, acquired a taste for colonization. Her attention was directed to her possessions, by right of discovery, in the new world, where she now wished to establish colonies and extend the faith of the Catholic religion. Commissions or grants were accordingly issued to companies of merchants, and others organized for this purpose, who undertook to make settlements in Acadia, as Nova Scotia was then called, and elsewhere along the lower waters of the St. Lawrence; and, at a later day, like efforts were made higher up the river. In 1607 Mr. De Monts, having failed in a former enterprise, was deprived of his commission, which was restored to him on the condition that he would make a settlement on the St. Lawrence. The company he represented seems to have had the fur trade only in view, and this object caused it to change its plans and avoid Acadia altogether. De Monts' company increased in numbers and capital in proportion as the fur trade developed expectations of profit, and many persons at St. Malo, particularly, gave it their support. Feeling that his name injured his associates, M. De Monts retired; and when he ceased to be its governing head, the company of merchants recovered the monopoly with which the charter was endowed, for no other object than making money out of the fur trade. They cared nothing whatever for the colony in Acadia, which was dying out, and made no settlements else-

where. However, Mr. Samuel Champlain, who cared little for the fur trade, and whose thoughts were those of a patriot, after maturely examining where the settlements directed by the court might be best established, at last fixed on Quebec. He arrived there on the 3d of July, 1608, put up some temporary buildings for himself and company, and began to clear off the ground, which proved fertile.\*

The colony at Quebec grew apace with emigrants from France; and later, the establishment of a settlement at the island of Montreal was undertaken. Two religious enthusiasts, the one named Jerome le Royer de la Dauversiere, of Anjou, and the other John James Olier, assumed the undertaking in 1636. The next who joined in the movement was Peter Chevirer, Baron Fancamp, who in 1640 sent tools and provisions for the use of the coming settlers. The projectors were now aided by the celebrated Baron de Renty, and two others. Father Charles Lalemant induced John de Lauson, the proprietor of the island of Montreal, to cede it to these gentlemen, which he did in August, 1640; and to remove all doubts as to the title, the associates obtained a grant from the New France Company, in December of the same year, which was subsequently ratified by the king himself. The associates agreed to send out forty settlers, to clear and cultivate the ground; to increase the number annually; to supply them with two sloops, cattle and farm hands, and, after five years, to erect a seminary, maintain ecclesiastics as missionaries and teachers, and also nuns as teachers and hospitalers. On its part the New France Company agreed to transport thirty settlers. The associates then contributed twenty-five thousand crowns to begin the settlement, and Mr. de Maisonneuve embarked with his colony on three vessels, which sailed from Rochelle and Dieppe, in the summer of 1641. The colony wintered in Quebec, spending their time in building boats and preparing timber for their houses; and on the 8th of May, 1642, embarked, and arrived nine days after at the island of Montreal, and after saying mass began an intrenchment around their tents.†

Notwithstanding the severity of the climate, the loss of life by diseases incident to settling of new countries, and more especially the

\* History of New France.

† From Dr. Shea's valuable note on Montreal, on pages 129 and 130, vol. 2, of his translation of Father Charlevoix' History of New France. Mr. Albach, publisher of "Annals of the West," Pittsburgh edition, 1857, p. 49, is in error in saying that Montreal was founded in 1613, by Samuel Champlain. Champlain, in company with a young Huron Indian, whom he had taken to and brought back from France on a previous voyage, visited the island of Montreal in 1611, and chose it as a place for a settlement he designed to establish, but which he did not begin, as he was obliged to return to France; *vide* Charlevoix' "History of New France," vol. 2, p. 23. The American Cyclopedia, as well as other authorities, concur with Dr. Shea, that Montreal was founded in 1642, seven years after Champlain's death.



destruction of its people from raids of the dreaded Iroquois Indians, the French colonies grew until, according to a report of Governor Mons. Denonville to the Minister at Paris, the population of Canada, in 1686, had increased to 12,373 souls. Quebec and Montreal became the base of operations of the French in America; the places from which missionaries, traders and explorers went out among the savages into countries hitherto unknown, going northward and westward, even beyond the extremity of Lake Superior to the upper waters of the Mississippi, and southward to the Gulf of Mexico; and it was from these cities that the religious, military and commercial affairs of this widely extended region were administered, and from which the French settlements subsequently established in the northwest and at New Orleans were principally recruited. The influence of Quebec and Montreal did not end with the fall of French power in America. It was from these cities that the English retained control of the fur trade in, and exerted a power over the Indian tribes of, the northwest that harassed and retarded the spread of the American settlements through all the revolutionary war, and during the later contest between Great Britain and the United States in the war of 1812. Indeed, it was only until after the fur trade was exhausted and the Indians placed beyond the Mississippi, subsequent to 1820, that Quebec and Montreal ceased to exert an influence in that part of New France now known as Illinois and Indiana.

Father Claude Allouez, coasting westward from Sault Ste. Marie, reached Chegoimegon, as the Indians called the bay south of the Apostle Islands and near La Pointe on the southwestern shore of Lake Superior, in October, 1665. Here he found ten or twelve fragments of Algonquin tribes assembled and about to hang the war kettle over the fire preparatory for an incursion westward into the territory of the Sioux. The good father persuaded them to give up their intended hostile expedition. He set up in their midst a chapel, to which he gave the name of the "Mission of the Holy Ghost," at the spot afterward known as "Lapointe du Saint Esprit," and at once began his mission work. His chapel was an object of wonder, and its establishment soon spread among the wild children of the forest, and thither from great distances came numbers all alive with curiosity,—the roving Pottawatomies, Sacs and Foxes, the Kickapoos, the Illinois and Miamis,—to whom the truths of christianity were announced.\*

Three years later Father James Marquette took the place of Allouez, and while here he seems to have been the first that learned of the Mississippi. In a letter written from this mission by Father Marquette to

\* Shea's History of Catholic Missions, 358.

his Reverend Father Superior, preserved in the Relations for 1669 and 1670, he says: "When the Illinois come to the point they pass a great river, which is almost a league in width. It flows from north to south, and to so great a distance that the Illinois, who know nothing of the use of the canoe, have never as yet heard tell of the mouth; they only know that there are great nations below them, some of whom, dwelling to the east-southeast of their country, gather their Indian-corn twice a year. A nation that they call Chaouanon (Shawnees) came to visit them during the past summer; the young man that has been given to me to teach me the language has seen them; they were loaded with glass beads, which shows that they have communication with the Europeans. They had to journey across the land for more than thirty days before arriving at their country. It is hardly probable that this great river discharges itself in Virginia. We are more inclined to believe that it has its mouth in California. If the savages, who have promised to make me a canoe, do not fail in their word, we will navigate this river as far as is possible in company with a Frenchman and this young man that they have given me, who understands several of these languages and possesses great facility for acquiring others. We shall visit the nations who dwell along its shores, in order to open the way to many of our fathers who for a long time have awaited this happiness. This discovery will give us a perfect knowledge of the sea either to the south or to the west."

These reports concerning the great river came to the knowledge of the authorities at Quebec and Paris, and naturally enough stimulated further inquiry. There were three theories as to where the river emptied; one, that it discharged into the Atlantic south of the British colony of Virginia; second, that it flowed into the Gulf of Mexico; and third, which was the more popular belief, that it emptied into the Red Sea, as the Gulf of California was called; and if the latter, that it would afford a passage to China. To solve this important commercial problem in geography, it was determined, as appears from a letter from the Governor, Count Frontenac, at Quebec, to M. Colbert, Minister of the navy at Paris, expedient "for the service to send Sieur Joliet to the country of the Mascoutines, to discover the South Sea and the great river — they call the Mississippi — which is supposed to discharge itself into the Sea of California. Sieur Joliet is a man of great experience in these sorts of discoveries, and has already been almost to that great river, the mouth of which he promises to see. We shall have intelligence of him, certainly, this summer.\* Father Marquette was chosen to accompany Joliet on account of the information he had already ob-

\* Paris Documents, vol. 9, p. 92.

tained from the Indians relating to the countries to be explored, and also because, as he wrote Father Dablon, his superior, when informed by the latter that he was to be Joliet's companion, "I am ready to go on your order to seek new nations toward the South Sea, and teach them of our great God whom they hitherto have not known."

The voyage of Joliet and Marquette is so interesting that we introduce extracts from Father Marquette's journal. The version we adopt is Father Marquette's original journal, prepared for publication by his superior, Father Dablon, and which lay in manuscript at Quebec, among the archives of the Jesuits, until 1852, when it, together with Father Marquette's original map, were brought to light, translated into English, and published by Dr. John G. Shea, in his "Discovery and Exploration of the Mississippi." The version commonly sanctioned was Marquette's narrative sent to the French government, where it lay unpublished until it came into the hands of M. Thevenot, who printed it at Paris, in a book issued by him in 1681, called "*Receuil de Voyages.*" This account differs somewhat, though not essentially, from the narrative as published by Dr. Shea.

Before proceeding farther, however, we will turn aside a moment to note the fact that Spain had a prior right over France to the Mississippi Valley by virtue of previous discovery. As early as the year 1525, Cortez had conquered Mexico, portioned out its rich mines among his favorites and reduced the inoffensive inhabitants to the worst of slavery, making them till the ground and toil in the mines for their unfeeling masters. A few years following the conquest of Mexico, the Spaniards, under Pamphilus de Narvaez, in 1528, undertook to conquer and colonize Florida and the entire northern coast-line of the Gulf. After long and fruitless wanderings in the interior, his party returned to the sea-coast and endeavored to reach Tampico, in wretched boats. Nearly all perished by storm, disease or famine. The survivors, with one Cabeza de Vaca at their head, drifted to an island near the present state of Mississippi; from which, after four years of slavery, De Vaca, with four companions, escaped to the mainland and started westward, going clear across the continent to the Gulf of California. The natives took them for supernatural beings. They assumed the guise of jugglers, and the Indian tribes, through which they passed, invested them with the title of medicine-men, and their lives were thus guarded with superstitious awe. They are, perhaps, the first Europeans who ever went overland from the Atlantic to the Pacific. They must have crossed the Great River somewhere on their route, and, says Dr. Shea, "remain in history, in a distant twilight, as the first Europeans known to have stood on the banks of the Mississippi." In 1539,



Hernando de Soto, with a party of cavaliers, most of them sons of titled nobility, landed with their horses upon the coast of Florida. During that and the following four years, these daring adventurers wandered through the wilderness, traveling in portions of Florida, Carolina, the northern parts of Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi, crossing the Mississippi, as is supposed, as high up as White River, and going still westward to the base of the Rocky Mountains, vainly searching for the rich gold mines of which De Vaca had given marvelous accounts. De Soto's party endured hardships that would depress the stoutest heart, while, with fire and sword, they perpetrated atrocities upon the Indian tribes through which they passed, burning their villages and inflicting cruelties which make us blush for the wickedness of men claiming to be christians. De Soto died, in May or June, 1542, on the banks of the Mississippi, below the mouth of the Washita, and his immediate attendants concealed his death from the others and secretly, in the night, buried his body in the middle of the stream. The remnant of his survivors went westward and then returned back again to the river, passing the winter upon its banks. The following spring they went down the river, in seven boats which they had rudely constructed out of such scanty material and with the few tools they could command. In these, after a three months' voyage, they arrived at the Spanish town of Panuco, on the river of that name in Mexico.

Later, in 1565, Spain, failing in previous attempts, effected a lodgment in Florida, and for the protection of her colony built the fort at St. Augustine, whose ancient ruin, still standing, is an object of curiosity to the health-seeker and a monument to the hundreds of native Indians who, reduced to bondage by their Spanish conquerors, perished, after years of unrequited labor, in erecting its frowning walls and gloomy dungeons.

While Spain retained her hold upon Mexico and enlarged her possessions, and continued, with feebler efforts, to keep possession of the Floridas, she took no measures to establish settlements along the Mississippi or to avail herself of the advantage that might have resulted from its discovery. The Great River excited no further notice after De Soto's time. For the next hundred years it remained as it were a sealed mystery until the French, approaching from the north by way of the lakes, explored it in its entire length, and brought to public light the vast extent and wonderful fertility of its valleys. Resuming the thread of our history at the place where we turned aside to notice the movements of the Spanish toward the Gulf, we now proceed with the extracts from Father Marquette's journal of the voyage of discovery down the Mississippi.



## CHAPTER VII.

### JOLIET AND MARQUETTE'S VOYAGE.

THE day of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin, whom I had always invoked, since I have been in this Ottawa country, to obtain of God the grace to be able to visit the nations on the River Mississippi, was identically that on which M. Jolliet arrived with orders of the Comte de Frontenac, our governor, and M. Talon, our intendant, to make this discovery with me. I was the more enraptured at this good news, as I saw my designs on the point of being accomplished, and myself in the happy necessity of exposing my life for the salvation of all these nations, and particularly for the Illinois, who had, when I was at Lapointe du Esprit, very earnestly entreated me to carry the word of God to their country."

"We were not long in preparing our outfit, although we were embarking on a voyage the duration of which we could not foresee. Indian corn, with some dried meats, was our whole stock of provisions. With this we set out in two bark canoes, M. Jolliet, myself and five men, firmly resolved to do all and suffer all for so glorious an enterprise."

"It was on the 17th of May, 1673, that we started from the mission of St. Ignatius, at Michilimackinac, where I then was."\*

"Our joy at being chosen for this expedition roused our courage and sweetened the labor of rowing from morning to night. As we were going to seek unknown countries, we took all possible precautions that, if our enterprise was hazardous, it should not be foolhardy; for this reason we gathered all possible information from the Indians who had frequented those parts, and even from their accounts, traced a map of all the new country, marking down the rivers on which we were to sail, the names of the nations and places through which we were to pass, the course of the Great River, and what direction we should take when we got to it."

"Above all, I put our voyage under the protection of the Blessed Virgin Immaculate, promising her that, if she did us the grace to discover the Great River, I would give it the name of the conception;

\* St. Ignatius was not on the Island of Mackinaw, but westward of it, on a point of land extending into the strait, from the north shore, laid down on modern maps as "Point St. Ignace." On this bleak, exposed and barren spot this mission was established by Marquette himself in 1671. Shea's Catholic Missions, p. 364.

and that I would also give that name to the first mission I should establish among these new nations, as I have actually done among the Illinois."

After some days they reached an Indian village, and the journal proceeds: "Here we are, then, at the Maskoutens. This word, in Algonquin, may mean Fire Nation, and that is the name given to them. This is the limit of discoveries made by the French, for they have not yet passed beyond it. This town is made up of three nations gathered here, Miamis, Maskoutens and Kikabous.\* As bark for cabins, in this country, is rare, they use rushes, which serve them for walls and roofs, but which afford them no protection against the wind, and still less against the rain when it falls in torrents. The advantage of this kind of cabins is that they can roll them up and carry them easily where they like in hunting time."

"I felt no little pleasure in beholding the position of this town. The view is beautiful and very picturesque, for, from the eminence on which it is perched, the eye discovers on every side prairies spreading away beyond its reach interspersed with thickets or groves of trees. The soil is very good, producing much corn. The Indians gather also quantities of plums and grapes, from which good wine could be made if they choose."

"No sooner had we arrived than M. Jollying and I assembled the Sachems. He told them that he was sent by our governor to discover new countries, and I by the Almighty to illumine them with the light of the gospel; that the Sovereign Master of our lives wished to be known to all nations, and that to obey his will I did not fear death, to which I exposed myself in such dangerous voyages; that we needed two guides to put us on our way; these, making them a present, we begged them to grant us. This they did very civilly, and even proceeded to speak to us by a present, which was a mat to serve us on our voyage."

"The next day, which was the 10th of June, two Miamis whom they had given us as guides embarked with us in the sight of a great crowd, who could not wonder enough to see seven Frenchmen, alone in two canoes, dare to undertake so strange and so hazardous an expedition."

"We knew that there was, three leagues from Maskoutens, a river emptying into the Mississippi. We knew, too, that the point of the compass we were to hold to reach it was the west-southwest, but the

\* The village was near the mouth of Wolf River, which empties into Winnebago Lake, Wisconsin. The stream was formerly called the Maskouten, and a tribe of this name dwelt along its banks.

way is so cut up with marshes and little lakes that it is easy to go astray, especially as the river leading to it is so covered with wild oats that you can hardly discover the channel; hence we had need of our two guides, who led us safely to a portage of twenty-seven hundred paces and helped us transport our canoes to enter this river, after which they returned, leaving us alone in an unknown country in the hands of Providence.”\*

“We now leave the waters which flow to Quebec, a distance of four or five hundred leagues, to follow those which will henceforth lead us into strange lands.

“Our route was southwest, and after sailing about thirty leagues we perceived a place which had all the appearances of an iron mine, and in fact one of our party who had seen some before averred that the one we had found was very rich and very good. After forty leagues on this same route we reached the mouth of our river, and finding ourselves at  $42\frac{1}{2}^{\circ}$  N. we safely entered the Mississippi on the 17th of June with a joy that I cannot express.”†

\*This portage has given the name to Portage City, Wisconsin, where the upper waters of Fox River, emptying into Green Bay, approach the Wisconsin River, which, coming from the northwest, here changes its course to the southwest. The distance from the Wisconsin to the Fox River at this point is, according to Henry R. Schoolcraft, a mile and a half across a level prairie, and the level of the two streams is so nearly the same that in high water loaded canoes formerly passed from the one to the other across this low prairie. For many miles below the portage the channel of Fox River was choked with a growth of tangled wild rice. The stream frequently expanding into little lakes, and its winding, crooked course through the prairie, well justifies the tradition of the Winnebago Indians concerning its origin. A vast serpent that lived in the waters of the Mississippi took a freak to visit the great lakes; he left his trail where he crossed over the prairie, which, collecting the waters as they fell from the rains of heaven, at length became Fox River. The little lakes along its course were, probably, the places where he flourished about in his uneasy slumbers at night. Mrs. John H. Kinzie's Waubun, p. 80.

†Father Marquette, agreeably to his vow, named the river the Immaculate Conception. Nine years later, when Robert La Salle, having discovered the river in its entire length, took possession at its mouth of the whole Mississippi Valley, he named the river Colbert, in honor of the Minister of the Navy, a man renowned alike for his ability, at the head of the Department of the Marine, and for the encouragement he gave to literature, science and art. Still later, in 1712, when the vast country drained by its waters was farmed out to private enterprise, as appears from letters patent from the King of France, conveying the whole to M. Crozat, the name of the river was changed to St. Lewis. Fortunately the Mississippi retains its aboriginal name, which is a compound from the two Algonquin words *missi*, signifying great, and *sepe*, a river. The former is variously pronounced *missil* or *michil*, as in Michilimakinac; *michi*, as in Michigan; *missu*, as in Missouri, and *missi*, as in the Mississeneway of the Wabash. The variation in pronunciation is not greater than we might expect in an unwritten language. “The Western Indians,” says Mr. Schoolcraft, “have no other word than *missi* to express the highest degree of magnitude, either in a moral or in a physical sense, and it may be considered as not only synonymous to our word *great*, but also magnificent, supreme, stupendous, etc.” Father Hennepin, who next to Marquette wrote concerning the derivation of the name, says: “Mississippi, in the language of the Illinois, means the great river.” Some authors, perhaps with more regard for a pleasing fiction than plain matter-of-fact, have rendered Mississippi “The Father of Waters;” whereas, *nos*, *noussei* and *nosha* mean father, and *neebe*, *nipi* or *nepee* mean water, as universally in the dialect of Algonquin tribes, as does the word *missi* mean great and *sepi* a river.



"Having descended as far as  $41^{\circ} 28'$ , following the same direction, we find that turkeys have taken the place of game, and pisikious (buffalo) or wild cattle that of other beasts.

"At last, on the 25th of June, we perceived foot-prints of men by the water-side and a beaten path entering a beautiful prairie. We stopped to examine it, and concluding that it was a path leading to some Indian village we resolved to go and reconnoitre; we accordingly left our two canoes in charge of our people, cautioning them to beware of a surprise; then M. Jolliet and I undertook this rather hazardous discovery for two single men, who thus put themselves at the mercy of an unknown and barbarous people. We followed the little path in silence, and having advanced about two leagues we discovered a village on the banks of the river, and two others on a hill half a league from the former. Then, indeed, we recommended ourselves to God with all our hearts, and having implored his help we passed on undiscovered, and came so near that we even heard the Indians talking. We then deemed it time to announce ourselves, as we did, by a cry which we raised with all our strength, and then halted, without advancing any farther. At this cry the Indians rushed out of their cabins, and having probably recognized us as French, especially seeing a black gown, or at least having no reason to distrust us, seeing we were but two and had made known our coming, they deputed four old men to come and speak to us. Two carried tobacco-pipes well adorned and trimmed with many kinds of feathers. They marched slowly, lifting their pipes toward the sun as if offering them to it to smoke, but yet without uttering a single word. They were a long time coming the little way from the village to us. Having reached us at last, they stopped to consider us attentively.

"I now took courage, seeing these ceremonies, which are used by them only with friends, and still more on seeing them covered with stuffs which made me judge them to be allies. I, therefore, spoke to them first, and asked them who they were. They answered that they were Illinois, and in token of peace they presented their pipes to smoke. They then invited us to their village, where all the tribe awaited us with impatience. These pipes for smoking are all called in this country calumets, a word that is so much in use that I shall be obliged to employ it in order to be understood, as I shall have to speak of it frequently.

"At the door of the cabin in which we were to be received was an old man awaiting us in a very remarkable posture, which is their usual ceremony in receiving strangers. This man was standing perfectly naked, with his hands stretched out and raised toward the sun, as if he wished to screen himself from its rays, which, nevertheless, passed



through his fingers to his face. When we came near him he paid us this compliment: 'How beautiful is the sun, O Frenchman, when thou comest to visit us! All our town awaits thee, and thou shalt enter all our cabins in peace.' He then took us into his, where there was a crowd of people, who devoured us with their eyes but kept a profound silence. We heard, however, these words occasionally addressed to us: 'Well done, brothers, to visit us!' As soon as we had taken our places they showed us the usual civility of the country, which is to present the calumet. You must not refuse it unless you would pass for an enemy, or at least for being very impolite. It is, however, enough to pretend to smoke. While all the old men smoked after us to honor us, some came to invite us, on behalf of the great sachem of all the Illinois, to proceed to his town, where he wished to hold a council with us. We went with a good retinue, for all the people who had never seen a Frenchman among them could not tire looking at us; they threw themselves on the grass by the wayside, they ran ahead, then turned and walked back to see us again. All this was done without noise, and with marks of a great respect entertained for us.

"Having arrived at the great sachem's town, we espied him at his cabin door between two old men; all three standing naked, with their calumet turned to the sun. He harangued us in a few words, to congratulate us on our arrival, and then presented us his calumet and made us smoke; at the same time we entered his cabin, where we received all their usual greetings. Seeing all assembled and in silence, I spoke to them by four presents which I made. By the first, I said that we marched in peace to visit the nations on the river to the sea; by the second, I declared to them that God, their creator, had pity on them, since, after their having been so long ignorant of him, he wished to become known to all nations; that I was sent on his behalf with this design; that it was for them to acknowledge and obey him; by the third, that the great chief of the French informed them that he spread peace everywhere, and had overcome the Iroquois; lastly, by the fourth, we begged them to give us all the information they had of the sea, and of nations through which we should have to pass to reach it.

"When I had finished my speech, the sachem rose, and laying his hand on the head of a little slave whom he was about to give us, spoke thus: 'I thank thee, Black-gown, and thee, Frenchman,' addressing M. Jollyet, 'for taking so much pains to come and visit us. Never has the earth been so beautiful, nor the sun so bright, as to-day; never has our river been so calm, nor so free from rocks, which your canoes have removed as they passed; never has our tobacco had so fine a flavor,

nor our corn appeared so beautiful as we behold it to-day. Here is my son that I give thee that thou mayest know my heart. I pray thee take pity on me and all my nation. Thou knowest the Great Spirit who has made us all; thou speakest to him and hearest his word; ask him to give me life and health, and come and dwell with us that we may know him.' Saying this, he placed the little slave near us and made us a second present, an all mysterious calumet, which they value more than a slave. By this present he showed us his esteem for our governor, after the account we had given of him. By the third he begged us, on behalf of his whole nation, not to proceed farther on account of the great dangers to which we exposed ourselves.

"I replied that I did not fear death, and that I esteemed no happiness greater than that of losing my life for the glory of him who made us all. But these poor people could not understand. The council was followed by a great feast which consisted of four courses, which we had to take with all their ways. The first course was a great wooden dish full of sagamity,—that is to say, of Indian meal boiled in water and seasoned with grease. The master of ceremonies, with a spoonful of sagamity, presented it three or four times to my mouth, as we would do with a little child; he did the same to M. Jolliet. For the second course, he brought in a second dish containing three fish; he took some pains to remove the bones, and having blown upon it to cool it, put it in my mouth as we would food to a bird. For the third course they produced a large dog which they had just killed, but, learning that we did not eat it, withdrew it. Finally, the fourth course was a piece of wild ox, the fattest portions of which were put into our mouths.

"We took leave of our Illinois about the end of June, and embarked in sight of all the tribe, who admire our little canoes, having never seen the like.

"As we were discoursing, while sailing gently down a beautiful, still, clear water, we heard the noise of a rapid into which we were about to fall. I have seen nothing more frightful; a mass of large trees, entire, with branches,—real floating islands,—came rushing from the mouth of the river Pekitanouï, so impetuously that we could not, without great danger, expose ourselves to pass across. The agitation was so great that the water was all muddy and could not get clear.\*

\* Pekitanouï, with the aborigines, signified "muddy water," on the authority of Father Marest, in his letter referred to in a previous note. The present name, Missouri, according to Le Page du Pratz, vol. 2, p. 157, was derived from the tribe, Missouri, whose village was some forty leagues above its mouth, and who massacred a French garrison situated in that part of the country. The late statesman and orator, Thomas A. Benton, referring to the muddiness prevailing at all seasons of the year in the Missouri River, said that its waters were "too thick to swim in and too thin to walk on."

"After having made about twenty leagues due south, and a little less to the southeast, we came to a river called Ouabonskigou, the mouth of which is at 36° north.\* This river comes from the country on the east inhabited by the Chaoúanons, in such numbers that they reckon as many as twenty-three villages in one district, and fifteen in another, lying quite near each other. They are by no means warlike, and are the people the Iroquois go far to seek in order to wage an unprovoked war upon them; and as these poor people cannot defend themselves they allow themselves to be taken and carried off like sheep, and, innocent as they are, do not fail to experience the barbarity of the Iroquois, who burn them cruelly.'

Having arrived about half a league from Akansea (Arkansas River), we saw two canoes coming toward us. The commander was standing up holding in his hand a calumet, with which he made signs according to the custom of the country. He approached us, singing quite agreeably, and invited us to smoke, after which he presented us some sagamity and bread made of Indian corn, of which we ate a little. We fortunately found among them a man who understood Illinois much better than the man we brought from Mitchigameh. By means of him, I first spoke to the assembly by ordinary presents. They admired what I told them of God and the mysteries of our holy faith, and showed a great desire to keep me with them to instruct them.

"We then asked them what they knew of the sea; they replied that we were only ten days' journey from it (we could have made the distance in five days); that they did not know the nations who inhabited it, because their enemies prevented their commerce with those Europeans; that the Indians with fire-arms whom we had met were their enemies, who cut off the passage to the sea, and prevented their making the acquaintance of the Europeans, or having any commerce with them; that besides we should expose ourselves greatly by passing on, in consequence of the continual war parties that their enemies sent out on the river; since, being armed and used to war, we could not, without evident danger, advance on that river which they constantly occupy.

"In the evening the sachems held a secret council on the design of some to kill us for plunder, but the chief broke up all these schemes, and sending for us, danced the calumet in our presence, and then, to remove all fears, presented it to me.

"M. Jolliet and I held another council to deliberate on what we should do, whether we should push on, or rest satisfied with the dis-

\* The Wabash here appears, for the first time, by name. A more extended notice of the various names by which this stream has been known will be given farther on.



covery that we had made. After having attentively considered that we were not far from the Gulf of Mexico, the basin of which is  $31^{\circ} 40'$  north, and we at  $33^{\circ} 40'$ ; so that we could not be more than two or three days' journey off; that the Mississippi undoubtedly had its mouth in Florida or the Gulf of Mexico, and not on the east in Virginia, whose sea-coast is at  $34^{\circ}$  north, which we had passed, without having as yet reached the sea, nor on the western side in California, because that would require a west, or west-southwest course, and we had always been going south. We considered, moreover, that we risked losing the fruit of this voyage, of which we could give no information, if we should throw ourselves into the hands of the Spaniards, who would undoubtedly at least hold us as prisoners. Besides it was clear that we were not in a condition to resist Indians allied to Europeans, numerous and expert in the use of fire-arms, who continually infested the lower part of the river. Lastly, we had gathered all the information that could be desired from the expedition. All these reasons induced us to return. This we announced to the Indians, and after a day's rest prepared for it.

"After a month's navigation down the Mississippi, from the 42d to below the 34th degree, and after having published the gospel as well as I could to the nations I had met, we left the village of Akansea on the 17th of July, to retrace our steps. We accordingly ascended the Mississippi, which gave us great trouble to stem its currents. We left it, indeed, about the 38th degree, to enter another river (the Illinois), which greatly shortened our way, and brought us, with little trouble, to the lake of the Illinois.

"We had seen nothing like *this* river for the fertility of the land, its prairies, woods, wild cattle, stag, deer, wild-cats, bustards, swans, ducks, parrots, and even beaver; its many little lakes and rivers. That on which we sailed is broad deep and gentle for sixty-five leagues. During the spring and part of the summer, the only portage is half a league.

"We found there an Illinois town called Kaskaskia, composed of seventy-four cabins; they received us well, and compelled me to promise them to return and instruct them. One of the chiefs of this tribe, with his young men, escorted us to the Illinois Lake, whence at last we returned in the close of September to the Bay of the Fetid (Green Bay), whence we had set out in the beginning of June. Had all this voyage caused but the salvation of a single soul, I should deem all my fatigue well repaid, and this I have reason to think, for, when I was returning, I passed by the Indians of Peoria. I was three days announcing the faith in their cabins, after which, as we were embarking, they brought



me, on the water's edge, a dying child, which I baptized a little before it expired, by an admirable providence for the salvation of that innocent soul."

Count Frontenac, writing from Quebec to M. Colbert, Minister of the Marine, at Paris, under date of November 14, 1674, announces that "Sieur Joliet, whom Monsieur Talon advised me, on my arrival from France, to dispatch for the discovery of the South Sea, has returned three months ago. He has discovered some very fine countries, and a navigation so easy through beautiful rivers he has found, that a person can go from Lake Ontario in a bark to the Gulf of Mexico, there being only one carrying place (around Niagara Falls), where Lake Ontario communicates with Lake Erie. I send you, by my secretary, the map which Sieur Joliet has made of the great river he has discovered, and the observations he has been able to recollect, as he lost all his minutes and journals in the shipwreck he suffered within sight of Montreal, where, after having completed a voyage of twelve hundred leagues, he was near being drowned, and lost all his papers and a little Indian whom he brought from those countries. These accidents have caused me great regret."\*

Louis Joliet, or Jolliet, or Jollyet, as the name is variously spelled, was the son of Jean Joliet, a wheelwright, and Mary d'Abancour; he was born at Quebec in the year 1645. Having finished his studies at the Jesuit college he determined to become a member of that order, and with that purpose in view took some of the minor orders of the society in August, 1662. He completed his studies in 1666, but during this time his attention had become interested in Indian affairs, and he laid aside all thoughts of assuming the "black gown." That he acquired great ability and tact in managing the savages, is apparent from the fact of his having been selected to discover the south sea by the way of the Mississippi. The map which he drew from memory, and which was forwarded by Count Frontenac to France, was afterward attached to Marquette's Journal, and was published by Therenot, at Paris, in 1681. Sparks, in his "Life of Marquette," copies this map, and ascribes it to his hero. This must be a mistake, since it differs quite essentially from Marquette's map, which has recently been brought to public notice by Dr. Shea.

Joliet's account of the voyage, mentioned by Frontenac, is published in Hennepin's "Discovery of a Vast Country in America." It is very meagre, and does not present any facts not covered by Marquette's narrative.

In 1680 Joliet was appointed hydrographer to the king, and many

\* Paris Documents, vol. 9, p. 121.

well-drawn maps at Quebec show that his office was no sinecure. Afterward, he made a voyage to Hudson's Bay in the interest of the king; and as a reward for the faithful performance of his duty, he was granted the island of Anticosti, which, on account of the fisheries and Indian trade, was at that time very valuable. After this, he signed himself Joliet d'Anticosty. In the year 1697, he obtained the seignory of Joliet on the river Etchemins, south of Quebec. M. Joliet died in 1701, leaving a wife and four children, the descendants of whom are living in Canada still possessed of the seignory of Joliet, among whom are Archbishop Taschereau of Quebec and Archbishop Tache of Red River.

Mount Joliet, on the Desplaines River, above its confluence with the Kankakee, and the city of Joliet, in the county of Will, perpetuate the name of Joliet in the state of Illinois.

Jacques Marquette was born in Laon, France, in 1637. His was the oldest and one of the most respectable citizen families of the place. At the age of seventeen he entered the Society of Jesus; received orders in 1666 to embark for Canada, arriving at Quebec in September of the same year. For two years he remained at Three Rivers, studying the different Indian dialects under Father Gabriel Druillentes. At the end of that period he received orders to repair to the upper lakes, which he did, and established the Mission of Sault Ste. Marie. The following year Dablon arrived, having been appointed Superior of the Ottawa missions; Marquette then went to the "Mission of the Holy Ghost" at the western extremity of Lake Superior; here he remained for two years, and it was his accounts, forwarded from this place, that caused Frontenac and Talon to send Joliet on his voyage to the Mississippi. The Sioux having dispersed the Algonquin tribes at Lapointe, the latter retreated eastward to Mackinaw; Marquette followed and founded there the Mission of St. Ignatius. Here he remained until Joliet came, in 1673, with orders to accompany him on his voyage of discovery down the Mississippi. Upon his return, Marquette remained at Mackinaw until October, 1674, when he received orders to carry out his pet project of founding the "Mission of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin" among the Illinois. He immediately set out, but owing to a severe dysentery, contracted the year previous, he made but slow progress. However, he reached Chicago Creek, December 4, where, growing rapidly worse, he was compelled to winter. On the 29th of the following March he set out for the Illinois town, on the river of that name. He succeeded in getting there on the 8th of April. Being cordially received by the Indians, he was enabled to realize his long deferred and much cherished project of establishing

the "Mission of the Immaculate Conception." Believing that his life was drawing to a close, he endeavored to reach Mackinaw before his death should take place. But in this hope he was doomed to disappointment; by the time he reached Lake Michigan "he was so weak that he had to be carried like a child." One Saturday, Marquette and his two companions entered a small stream—which still bears his name—on the eastern side of Lake Michigan, and in this desolate spot, virtually alone, destitute of all the comforts of life, died James Marquette. His life-long wish to die a martyr in the holy cause of Jesus and the Blessed Virgin, was granted. Thus passed away one of the purest and most sacrificing servants of God,—one of the bravest and most heroic of men.

The biographical sketch of Joliet has been collated from a number of reliable authorities, and is believed truthful. Our notice of Father Marquette is condensed from his life as written by Dr. Shea, than whom there is no one better qualified to perform the task.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### EXPLORATIONS BY LA SALLE.

THE success of the French, in their plan of colonization, was so great, and the trade with the savages, exchanging fineries, guns, knives, and, more than all, spirituous liquors for valuable furs, yielded such enormous profits, that impetus was given to still greater enterprises. They involved no less than the hemming in of the British colonies along the Atlantic coast and a conquest of the rich mines in Mexico, from the Spanish. These purposes are boldly avowed in a letter of M. Talon, the king's enterprising intendant at Quebec, in 1671; and also in the declarations of the great Colbert, at Paris, "I am," says M. Talon, in his letter to the king referred to, "no courtier, and assert, not through a mere desire to please the king, nor without just reason, that this portion of the French monarchy will become something grand. What I discover around me makes me foresee this; and those colonies of foreign nations so long settled on the seaboard already tremble with fright, in view of what his majesty has accomplished here in the interior. The measures adopted to confine them within narrow limits, by taking possession, which I have caused to be effected, do not allow them to spread, without subjecting themselves, at the same time, to be treated as usurpers, and have war waged against them. This in truth is what by all their acts they seem to greatly fear. They already know that your name is spread abroad among the savages throughout all those countries, and that they regard your majesty alone as the arbitrator of peace and war; they detach themselves insensibly from other Europeans, and excepting the Iroquois, of whom I am not as yet assured, we can safely promise that the others will take up arms whenever we please." "The principal result," says La Salle, in his memoir at a later day, "expected from the great perils and labors which I underwent in the discovery of the Mississippi was to satisfy the wish expressed to me by the late Monsieur Colbert, of finding a port where the French might establish themselves and harass the Spaniards in those regions from whence they derive all their wealth. The place I propose to fortify lies sixty leagues above the mouth of the river Colbert (*i. e.* Mississippi) in the Gulf of Mexico, and possesses all the advantages for such a purpose which can be wished for, both on account



of its excellent position and the favorable disposition of the savages who live in that part of the country.”\* It is not our province to indulge in conjectures as to how far these daring purposes of Talon and Colbert would have succeeded had not the latter died, and their active assistant, Robert La Salle, have lost his life, at the hands of an assassin, when in the act of executing the preliminary part of the enterprise. We turn, rather, to matters of historical record, and proceed with a condensed sketch of the life and voyages of La Salle, as it was his discoveries that led to the colonization of the Mississippi Valley by the French.

La Salle was born, of a distinguished family, at Rouen, France. He was consecrated to the service of God in early life, and entered the Society of Jesus, in which he remained ten years, laying the foundation of moral principles, regular habits and elements of science that served him so well in his future arduous undertakings. Like many other young men having plans of useful life, he thought Canada would offer better facilities to develop them than the cramped and fixed society of France. He accordingly left his home, and reached Montreal in 1666. Being of a resolute and venturesome disposition, he found employment in making explorations of the country about the lakes. He soon became a favorite of Talon, the intendant, and of Frontenac, the governor, at Quebec. He was selected by the latter to take command of Fort Frontenac, near the present city of Kingston, on the St. Lawrence River, and at that time a dilapidated, wooden structure on the frontier of Canada. He remained in Canada about nine years, acquiring a knowledge of the country and particularly of the Indian tribes, their manners, habits and customs, and winning the confidence of the French authorities. He returned to France and presented a memoir to the king, in which he urged the necessity of maintaining Fort Frontenac, which he offered to restore with a structure of stone; to keep there a garrison equal to the one at Montreal; to employ as many as fifteen laborers during the first year; to clear and till the land, and to supply the surrounding Indian villages with Recollect missionaries in furtherance of the cause of religion, all at his own expense, on condition that the king would grant him the right of seigniorship and a monopoly of the trade incident to it. He further petitioned for title of nobility in consideration of voyages he had already made in Canada at his own expense, and which had resulted in the great benefit to the king's colony. The king heard the petition graciously, and

\* Talon's letter to the king: Paris Documents, vol. 9, p. 73. La Salle's Memoir to the king, on the necessity of fitting out an expedition to take possession of Louisiana: Historical Collections of Louisiana, part 1, p. 5.

on the 13th May, 1675, granted La Salle and his heirs Fort Frontenac, with four leagues of the adjacent country along the lakes and rivers above and below the fort and a half a league inward, and the adjacent islands, with the right of hunting and fishing on Lake Ontario and the circumjacent rivers. On the same day, the king issued to La Salle letters patent of nobility, having, as the king declares, been informed of the worthy deeds performed by the people, either in reducing or civilizing the savages or in defending themselves against their frequent insults, especially those of the Iroquois; in despising the greatest dangers in order to extend the king's name and empire to the extremity of that new world; and desiring to reward those who have thus rendered themselves most eminent; and wishing to treat most favorably Robert Cavalier Sieur de La Salle on account of the good and laudable report that has been rendered concerning his actions in Canada, the king does ennoble and decorate with the title of nobility the said cavalier, together with his wife and children. He left France with these precious documents, and repaired to Fort Frontenac, where he performed the conditions imposed by the terms of his titles.

He sailed for France again in 1677, and in the following year after he and Colbert had fully matured their plans, he again petitioned the king for a license to prosecute further discoveries. The king granted his request, giving him a permit, under date of May 12, 1678, to endeavor to discover the western part of New France; the king avowing in the letters patent that "he had nothing more at heart than the discovery of that country where there is a prospect of finding a way to penetrate as far as Mexico," and authorizing La Salle to prosecute discoveries, and construct forts in such places as he might think necessary, and enjoy there the same monopoly as at Fort Frontenac,—all on condition that the enterprise should be prosecuted at La Salle's expense, and completed within five years; that he should not trade with the savages, who carried their peltries and beavers to Montreal; and that the governor, intendant, justices, and other officers of the king in New France, should aid La Salle in his enterprise.\* Before leaving France, La Salle, through the Prince de Conti, was introduced to one Henri de Tonti, an Italian by birth, who for eight years had been in the French service. Having had one of his hands shot off while in Sicily, he repaired to France to seek other employment. It was a most fortunate meeting. Tonti—a name that should be prominently associated with discoveries in this part of America—became La Salle's companion. Ever faithful and courageous, he ably and zealously fur-

\* *Vide* the petitions of La Salle to, and the grants from, the king, which are found at length in the Paris Documents, vol. 9, pp. 122 to 127.

thered all of La Salle's plans, followed and defended him under the most discouraging trials, with an unselfish fidelity that has few parallels in any age.

Supplied with this new grant of enlarged powers, La Salle, in company with Tonti,—or Tonty, as Dr. Sparks says he has seen the name written in an autograph letter,—and thirty men, comprising pilots, sailors, carpenters and other mechanics, with a supply of material necessary for the intended exploration, left France for Quebec. Here the party were joined by some Canadians, and the whole force was sent forward to Fort Frontenac, at the outlet of Lake Ontario, since this fort had been granted to La Salle. He had, in conformity to the terms of his letters patent, greatly enlarged and strengthened its defenses. Here he met Louis Hennepin, a Franciscan Friar, whom it seems had been sent thither along with Father Gabriel de la Ribourde and Zenobius Membre, all of the same religious order, to accompany La Salle's expedition. In the meantime, Hennepin was occupied in pastoral labors among the soldiers of the garrison, and the inhabitants of a little hamlet of peasants near by, and proselyting the Indians of the neighboring country. Hennepin, from his own account, had not only traveled over several parts of Europe before coming to Canada, but since his arrival in America, had spent much time in roaming about among the savages, to gratify his love of adventure and acquire knowledge.

Hennepin's name and writings are so prominently connected with the early history of the Mississippi Valley, and, withal, his contradictory statements, made at a later day of his life, as to the extent of his own travels, have so clouded his reputation with grave doubt as to his regard for truth, that we will turn aside and give the reader a sketch of this most singular man and his claims as a discoverer. He was bold, courageous, patient and hopeful under the most trying fatigues; and had a taste for the privations and dangers of a life among the savages, whose ways and caprices he well understood, and knew how to turn them to insure his own safety. He was a shrewd observer and possessed a faculty for that detail and little minutiae, which make a narrative racy and valuable. He was vain and much given to self-glorification. He accompanied La Salle, in the first voyage, as far as Peoria Lake, and he and Father Zenobe Membre are the historians of that expedition. From Peoria Lake he went down the Illinois, under orders from La Salle, and up the Mississippi beyond St. Anthony's Falls, giving this name to the falls. This interesting voyage was not prosecuted voluntarily; for Hennepin and his two companions were captured by the Sioux and taken up the river as prisoners, often in



great peril of their lives. He saw La Salle no more, after parting with him at Peoria Lake. He was released from captivity through the intervention of Mons. Duluth, a French Coureur de Bois, who had previously established a trade with the Sioux, on the upper Mississippi, by way of Lake Superior. After his escape, Hennepin descended the Mississippi to the mouth of the Wisconsin, which he ascended, made the portage at the head of Fox River, thence to Green Bay and Mackinaw, by the route pursued by Joliet and Marquette on their way to the Mississippi, seven years before. From Mackinaw he proceeded to France, where, in 1683, he published, under royal authority, an account of his travels. For refusing to obey an order of his superiors, to return to America, he was banished from France. He went to Holland and obtained the favor and patronage of William III, king of England, to whose service, as he himself says, "he entirely devoted himself." In Holland, he received money and sustenance from Mr. Blathwait, King William's secretary of war, while engaged in preparing a new volume of his voyages, which was published at Utrecht, in 1697, and dedicated "To His Most Excellent Majesty William the Third." The revised edition contains substantially all of the first, and a great deal besides; for in this last work Hennepin lays claim, for the first time, to having gone *down* the Mississippi to its mouth, thus seeking to deprive La Salle of the glory attaching to his name, on account of this very discovery. La Salle had now been dead about fourteen years, and from the time he went down the Mississippi, in 1682, to the hour of his death, although his discovery was well known, especially to Hennepin, the latter never laid any claim to having anticipated him in the discovery. Besides, Hennepin's own account, after so long a silence, of his pretended voyage down the river is so utterly inconsistent with itself, especially with respect to dates and the impossibility of his traveling the distances within the time he alleges, that the story carries its own refutation. For this mendacious act, Father Hennepin has merited the severest censures of Charlevoix, Jared Sparks, Francis Parkman, Dr. Shea and other historical critics.

His first work is generally regarded as authority. That he did go up the Mississippi river there seems to be no controversy, while grave doubts prevail as to many statements in his last publication, which would otherwise pass without suspicion were they not found in company with statements known to be untrue.

In the preface to his last work, issued in 1697, Father Hennepin assigns as a reason why he did not publish his descent of the Mississippi in his volume issued in 1683, "that I was obliged to say nothing of the course of the Mississippi, from the mouth of the Illinois down



to the sea, for fear of disobliging M. La Salle, with whom I began my discovery. This gentleman, alone, would have the glory of having discovered the course of that river. But when he heard that I had done it two years before him he could never forgive me, though, as I have said, I was so modest as to publish nothing of it. This was the true cause of his malice against me, and of the barbarous usage I met with in France."

Still, his description of places he did visit; the aboriginal names and geographical features of localities; his observations, especially upon the manners and customs of the Indians, and other facts which he had no motive to misrepresent, are generally regarded as true in his last as well as in his first publication. His works, indeed, are the only repositories of many interesting particulars relating to the northwest, and authors quote from him, some indiscriminately and others with more caution, while all criticise him without measure.

Hennepin was born in Belgium in 1640, as is supposed, and died at Utrecht, Holland, within a few years after issuing his last book. This was republished in London in 1698, the translation into English being wretchedly executed. The book, aside from its historical value and the notoriety attaching to it because of the new claims Hennepin makes, is quite a curiosity. It is made up of Hennepin's own travels, blended with his fictitious discoveries, scraps and odd ends taken from the writings of other travelers without giving credit; the whole embellished with plates and a map inserted by the bookseller, and the text emphasized with italics and displayed type; all designed to render it a specimen, as it probably was in its day, of the highest skill attained in the art of book-making.

La Salle brought up the St. Lawrence to Fort Frontenac the anchors, cordage and other material to be used in the vessel which he designed to construct above the Falls of Niagara for navigating the western lakes. He already had three small vessels on Lake Ontario, which he had made use of in a coasting trade with the Indians. One of these, a brigantine of ten tons, was loaded with his effects; his men, including Fathers Gabriel, Zenobius Membre and Hennepin, who were, as Father Zenobia declares, commissioned with care of the spiritual direction of the expedition, were placed aboard, and on the 18th of November the vessel sailed westward for the Niagara River. They kept the northern shore, and run into land and bartered for corn with the Iroquois at one of their villages, situated where Toronto, Canada, is located, and for fear of being frozen up in the river, which here empties into the lake, had to cut the ice from about their ship. Detained by adverse winds, they remained here until the wind was favorable,

when they sailed across the end of the lake and found an anchorage in the mouth of Niagara River on the 6th of December. The season was far advanced, and the ground covered with snow a foot deep. Large masses of ice were floating down the river endangering the vessel, and it was necessary to take measures to give it security. Accordingly the vessel was hauled with cables up against the strong current. One of the cables broke, and the vessel itself came very near being broken to pieces or carried away by the ice, which was grinding its way to the open lake. Finally, by sheer force of human strength, the vessel was dragged to the shore, and moored with a strong hawser under a protecting cliff out of danger from the floating ice. A cabin, protected with palisades, for shelter and to serve as a magazine to store the supplies, was also constructed. The ground was frozen so hard that it had to be thawed out with boiling water before the men could drive stakes into it.

The movements of La Salle excited, first the curiosity of the Iroquois Indians, in whose country he was an intruder, and then their jealousy became aroused as they began to fear he intended the erection of a fort. The *Sieur de La Salle*, says the frank and modest-minded Father Z  nobe Membre, "with his usual address met the principal Iroquois chiefs in conference, and gained them so completely that they not only agreed, but offered, to contribute with all their means to the execution of his designs. The conference lasted for some time. La Salle also sent many canoes to trade north and south of the lake among these tribes." Meanwhile La Salle's enemies were busy in thwarting his plans. They insinuated themselves among the Indians in the vicinity of Niagara, and filled their ears with all sorts of stories to La Salle's discredit, and aroused feelings of such distrust that work on the fort, or depot for supplies, had to be suspended, and La Salle content himself with a house surrounded by palisades.

A place was selected above the falls,\* on the eastern side of the river, for the construction of the new vessel.

The ground was cleared away, trees were felled, and the carpenters set to work. The keel of the vessel was laid on the 26th of January, and some of the plank being ready to fasten on, La Salle drove the first spike. As the work progressed, La Salle made several trips, over ice and snow, and later in the spring with vessels, to Fort Frontenac, to hurry forward provisions and material. One of his vessels was lost on Lake Ontario, heavily laden with a cargo of valuable supplies, through the fault or willful perversity of her pilots. The disappointment over this calamity, says Hennepin, would have dissuaded any other person than

\* Francis Parkman, in his valuable work, "The Discovery of the Great West," p. 133, locates the spot at the mouth of Cayuga Creek on the American shore.

La Salle from the further prosecution of the enterprise. The men worked industriously on the ship. The most of the Iroquois having gone to war with a nation on the northern side of Lake Erie, the few remaining behind were become less insolent than before. Still they lingered about where the work was going on, and continued expressions of discontent at what the French were doing. One of them let on to be drunk and attempted to kill the blacksmith, but the latter repulsed the Indian with a piece of iron red-hot from the forge. The Indians threatened to burn the vessel on the stocks, and might have done so were it not constantly guarded. Much of the time the only food of the men was Indian corn and fish; the distance to Fort Frontenac and the inclemency of the winter rendering it out of power to procure a supply of other or better provisions.

The frequent alarms from the Indians, a want of wholesome food, the loss of the vessel with its promised supplies, and a refusal of the neighboring tribes to sell any more of their corn, reduced the party to such extremities that the ship-carpenters tried to run away. They were, however, persuaded to remain and prosecute their work. Two Mohegan Indians, successful hunters in La Salle's service, were fortunate enough to bring in some wild goats and other game they had killed, which greatly encouraged the workmen to go on with their task more briskly than before. The vessel was completed within six months from the time its keel was laid. The ship was gotten afloat before entirely finished, to prevent the designs of the natives to burn it. She was sixty tons burthen, and called the "Griffin," a name given it by La Salle by way of a compliment to Count Frontenac, whose armorial bearings were supported by two griffins. Three guns were fired, and "*Te Deums*" chanted at the christening, and prayers offered up for a prosperous voyage. The air in the wild forest rung with shouts of joy; even the Iroquois, looking suspiciously on, were seduced with alluring draughts of brandy to lend their deep-mouthed voices to the happy occasion. The men left their cabins of bark and swung their hammocks under the deck of the ship, where they could rest with greater security from the savages than on the shore.

The Griffin, under press of a favorable breeze, and with the help of twelve men on the shore pulling at tow-ropes, was forced up against the strong current of the Niagara River to calmer waters at the entrance of the lake. On the 7th of August, 1679, her canvas was spread, and the pilot steering by the compass, the vessel, with La Salle and his thirty odd companions and their effects aboard, sailed out westward upon the unknown, silent waters of Lake Erie. In three days they reached the mouth of Detroit River. Father Hennepin was fairly



delighted with the country along this river — it was “so well situated and the soil so fertile. Vast meadows extending back from the strait and terminating at the uplands, which were clad with vineyards, and plum and pear and other fruit-bearing trees of nature’s own planting, all so well arranged that one would think they could not have been so disposed without the help of art. The country was also well stocked with deer, bear, wild goats, turkeys, and other animals and birds, that supplied a most relishing food. The forest comprised walnut and other timber in abundance suitable for building purposes. So charmed was he with the prospect that he “endeavored to persuade La Salle to settle at the ‘De Troit,’” it being in the midst of so many savage nations among whom a good trade could be established. La Salle would not listen to this proposal. He said he would make no settlement within one hundred leagues of Frontenac, lest other Europeans would be before them in the new country they were going to discover. This, says Hennepin, was the pretense of La Salle and the adventurers who were with him; for I soon discovered that their intention was to buy all the furs and skins of the remotest savages who, as they thought, did not know their value, and thus enrich themselves in one single voyage.

On Lake Huron the Griffin encountered a storm. The main-yards and topmast were blown away, giving the ship over to the mercy of the winds. There was no harbor to run into for shelter. La Salle, although a courageous man, gave way to his fears, and said they all were undone. Everyone thereupon fell upon their knees to say prayers and prepare for death, except the pilot, who cursed and swore all the while at La Salle for bringing him there to perish in a nasty lake, after he had acquired so much renown in a long and successful navigation on the ocean. The storm abated, and on the 27th of August, the Griffin resumed her course northwest, and was carried on the evening of the same day beyond the island of Mackinaw to point St. Ignace, and safely anchored in a bay that is sheltered, except from the south, by the projecting mainland.



## CHAPTER IX.

### LA SALLE'S VOYAGE CONTINUED.

ST. IGNACE, or Mackinaw, as previously stated, had become a principal center of the Jesuit missions, and it had also grown into a headquarters for an extensive Indian trade. Duly licensed traders, as well as the *Coueurs de Bois*,—men who had run wild, as it were, and by their intercourse with the nations had thrown off all restraints of civilized life,—resorted to this vicinity in considerable numbers. These, lost to all sense of national pride, instead of sustaining took every measure to thwart La Salle's plans. They, with some of the dissatisfied crew, represented to the Indians that La Salle and his associates were a set of dangerous and ambitious adventurers, who meant to engross all the trade in furs and skins and invade their liberties. These jealous and meddlesome busybodies had already, before the arrival of the Griffin, succeeded in seducing fifteen men from La Salle's service, whom with others, he had sent forward the previous spring, under command of Tonty, with a stock of merchandise; and, instead of going to the tribes beyond and preparing the way for a friendly reception of La Salle, as they were ordered to do, they loitered about Mackinaw the whole summer and squandered the goods, in spite of Tonty's persistent efforts to urge them forward in the performance of their duty. La Salle sent out other parties to trade with the natives, and these went so far, and were so busy in bartering for and collecting furs, that they did not return to Mackinaw until November. It was now getting late and La Salle was warned of the dangerous storms that sweep the lakes at the beginning of winter; he resolved, therefore, to continue his voyage without waiting the return of his men. He weighed anchor and sailed westward into Lake Michigan as far as the islands at the entrance of Green Bay, then called the Pottawatomie Islands, for the reason that they were then occupied by bands of that tribe. On one of these islands La Salle found some of the men belonging to his advance party of traders, and who, having secured a large quantity of valuable furs, had long and impatiently waited his coming.

La Salle, as is already apparent, determined to engage in a fur trade that already and legitimately belonged to merchants operating at

Montreal, and with which the terms of his own license prohibited his interfering. Without asking any one's advice he resolved to load his ship with furs and send it back to Niagara, and the furs to Quebec, and out of the proceeds of the sale to discharge some very pressing debts. The pilot with five men to man the vessel were ordered to proceed with the Griffin to Niagara, and return with all imaginable speed and join La Salle at the mouth of the St. Joseph River, near the southern shore of Lake Michigan. The Griffin did not go to Green Bay City, as many writers have assumed in hasty perusals of the original authorities, or even penetrate the body of water known as Green Bay beyond the chain of islands at its mouth.

The resolution of La Salle, taken, it seems, on the spur of the moment, to send his ship back down the lakes, and prosecute his voyage the rest of the way to the head of Lake Michigan in frail birchen canoes, was a most unfortunate measure. It delayed his discoveries two years, brought severe hardships upon himself and greatly embarrassed all his future plans. The Griffin itself was lost, with all her cargo, valued at sixty thousand livres. She, nor her crew, was ever heard of after leaving the Pottawatomie Islands. What became of the ship and men in charge remains to this day a mystery, or veiled in a cloud of conjecture. La Salle himself, says Francis Parkman, "grew into a settled conviction that the Griffin had been treacherously sunk by the pilot and sailors to whom he had intrusted her; and he thought he had, in after-years, found evidence that the authors of the crime, laden with the merchandise they had taken from her, had reached the Mississippi and ascended it, hoping to join Du Shut, the famous chief of the Coureurs de Bois, and enrich themselves by traffic with the northern tribes.\*

The following is, substantially, Hennepin's account of La Salle's canoe voyage from the mouth of Green Bay south, along the shore of Lake Michigan, past Milwaukee and Chicago, and around the southern end of the lake; thence north along the eastern shore to the mouth of the St. Joseph River; thence up the St. Joseph to South Bend, making the portage here to the head-waters of the Kankakee; thence down the Kankakee and Illinois through Peoria Lake, with an account of the building of Fort Creveceur. Hennepin's narrative is full of interesting detail, and contains many interesting observations upon the condition of the country, the native inhabitants as they appeared nearly two hundred years ago. The privation and suffering to which La Salle and his party were exposed in navigating Lake Michigan at that early day, and late in the fall of the year, when the waters were vexed with

\* Discovery of the Great West, p. 169.

tempestuous storms, illustrate the courage and daring of the undertaking.

Their suffering did not terminate with their voyage upon the lake. Difficulties of another kind were experienced on the St. Joseph, Kankakee and Illinois Rivers. Hennepin's is, perhaps, the first detailed account we have of this part of the "Great West," and is therefore of great interest and value on this account.

"We left the Pottawatomies to continue our voyage, being fourteen men in all, in four canoes. I had charge of the smallest, which carried five hundredweight and two men. My companions being recently from Europe, and for that reason being unskilled in the management of these kind of boats, its whole charge fell upon me in stormy weather.

"The canoes were laden with a smith's forge, utensils, tools for carpenters, joiners and sawyers, besides our goods and arms. We steered to the south toward the mainland, from which the Pottawatomie Islands are distant some forty leagues; but about midway, and in the night time, we were greatly endangered by a sudden storm. The waves dashed into our canoes, and the night was so dark we had great difficulty in keeping our canoes together. The daylight coming on, we reached the shore, where we remained for four days, waiting for the lake to grow calm. In the meantime our Indian hunter went in quest of game, but killed nothing other than a porcupine; this, however, made our Indian corn more relishing. The weather becoming fair, we resumed our voyage, rowing all day and well into the night, along the western coast of the Lake of the Illinois. The wind again grew to fresh, and we landed upon a rocky beach where we had nothing to protect ourselves against a storm of snow and rain except the clothing on our persons. We remained here two days for the sea to go down, having made a little fire from wood cast ashore by the waves. We proceeded on our voyage, and toward evening the winds again forced us to a beach covered with rushes, where we remained three days; and in the meantime our provisions, consisting only of pumpkins and Indian corn purchased from the Pottawatomies, entirely gave out. Our canoes were so heavily laden that we could not carry provisions with us, and we were compelled to rely on bartering for such supplies on our way. We left this dismal place, and after twelve leagues rowing came to another Pottawatomie village, whose inhabitants stood upon the beach to receive us. But M. La Salle refused to let anyone land, notwithstanding the severity of the weather, fearing some of his men might run away. We were in such great peril that La Salle flung himself into the water, after we had gone some three leagues farther,

and with the aid of his three men carried the canoe of which he had charge to the shore, upon their shoulders, otherwise it would have been broken to pieces by the waves. We were obliged to do the same with the other canoes. I, myself, carried good Father Gabriel upon my back, his age being so well advanced as not to admit of his venturing in the water. We took ourselves to a piece of rising ground to avoid surprise, as we had no manner of acquaintance with the great number of savages whose village was near at hand. We sent three men into the village to buy provisions, under protection of the calumet or pipe of peace, which the Indians at Pottawatomie Islands had presented us as a means of introduction to, and a measure of safety against, other tribes that we might meet on our way."

The calumet has always been a symbol of amity among all the Indian tribes of North America, and so uniformly used by them in all their negotiations with their own race, and Europeans as well; and Father Hennepin's description of it, and the respect that is accorded to its presence, are so truthful that we here insert his account of it at length:

"This calumet," says Father Hennepin, "is the most mysterious thing among the savages, for it is used in all important transactions. It is nothing else, however, than a large tobacco pipe, made of red, black, or white stone. The head is highly polished, and the quill or stem is usually about two feet in length, made of a pretty strong reed or cane, decorated with highly colored feathers interlaced with locks of women's hair. Wings of gaudily plumaged birds are tied to it, making the calumet look like the wand of Mercury, or staff which ambassadors of state formerly carried when they went to conduct treaties of peace. The stem is sheathed in the skin of the neck of birds called '*Huars*' (probably the loon), which are as large as our geese, and spotted with white and black; or else with those of a duck (the little wood duck whose neck presents a beautiful contrast of colors) that make their nests upon trees, although the water is their ordinary element, and whose feathers are of many different colors. However, every tribe ornament their calumets according to their own fancy, with the feathers of such birds as they may have in their own country.

"A pipe, such as I have described, is a pass of safe conduct among all the allies of the tribe which has given it; and in all embassies it is carried as a symbol of peace, and is always respected as such, for the savages believe some great misfortune would speedily befall them if they violated the public faith of the calumet. All their enterprises, declarations of war, treaties of peace, as well as all of the rest of their ceremonies, are sealed with the calumet. The pipe is filled with the best



tobacco they have, and then it is presented to those with whom they are about to conduct an important affair; and after they have smoked out of it, the one offering it does the same. I would have perished," concludes Hennepin, "had it not been for the calumet. Our three men, carrying the calumet and being well armed, went to the little village about three leagues from the place where we landed; they found no one at home, for the inhabitants, having heard that we refused to land at the other village, supposed we were enemies, and had abandoned their habitations. In their absence our men took some of their corn, and left instead, some goods, to let them know we were neither their enemies nor robbers. Twenty of the inhabitants of this village came to our encampment on the beach, armed with axes, small guns, bows, and a sort of club, which, in their language, means a head-breaker. La Salle, with four well-armed men, advanced toward them for the purpose of opening a conversation. He requested them to come near to us, saying he had a party of hunters out who might come across them and take their lives. They came forward and took seats at the foot of an eminence, where we were encamped; and La Salle amused them with the relation of his voyage, which he informed them he had undertaken for their advantage; and thus occupied their time until the arrival of the three men who had been sent out with the calumet; on seeing which the savages gave a great shout, arose to their feet and danced about. We excused our men from having taken some of their corn, and informed them that we had left its true value in goods; they were so well pleased with this that they immediately sent for more corn, and on the next day they made us a gift of as much as we could conveniently find room for in our canoes.

"The next day morning the old men of the tribe came to us with their calumet of peace, and entertained us with a free offering of wild goats, which their own hunters had taken. In return, we presented them our thanks, accompanied with some axes, knives, and several little toys for their wives, with all which they were very much pleased.

"We left this place and continued our voyage along the coast of the lake, which, in places, is so steep that we often found it difficult to obtain a landing; and the wind was so violent as to oblige us to carry our canoes sometimes upon top of the bluff, to prevent their being dashed in pieces. The stormy weather lasted four days, causing us much suffering; for every time we made the shore we had to wade in the water, carrying our effects and canoes upon our shoulders. The water being very cold, most of us were taken sick. Our provisions again failed us, which, with the fatigues of rowing, made old Father Gabriel faint away in such a manner that we despaired of his life.

With a use of a decoction of hyacinth I had with me, and which I found of great service on our voyage, he was restored to his senses. We had no other subsistence but a handful of corn per man every twenty-four hours, which we parched or boiled; and, although reduced to such scanty diet, we rowed our canoes almost daily, from morning to night. Our men found some hawthorns and other wild berries, of which they ate so freely that most of them were taken sick, and we imagined that they were poisoned.

"Yet the more we suffered, the more, by God's grace, did I become stronger, so that I could outrow the other canoes. Being in great distress, He, who takes care of his meanest creatures, provided us with an unexpected relief. We saw over the land a great many ravens and eagles circling in mid-air; from whence we conjectured there was prey near by. We landed, and, upon search, found the half of a wild goat which the wolves had strangled. This provision was very acceptable, and the rudest of our men could not but praise a kind Providence, who took such particular care of us.

"Having thus refreshed ourselves, we continued our voyage directly to the southern part of the lake, every day the country becoming finer and the climate more temperate. On the 16th of October we fell in with abundance of game. Our Indian hunter killed several deer and wild goats, and our men a great many big fat turkey-cocks, with which we regaled ourselves for several days. On the 18th we came to the farther end of the lake.\* Here we landed, and our men were sent out to prospect the locality, and found great quantities of ripe grapes, the fruit of which were as large as damask plums. We cut down the trees to gather the grapes, out of which we made pretty good wine, which we put into gourds, used as flasks, and buried them in the sand to keep the contents from turning sour. Many of the trees here are loaded with vines, which, if cultivated, would make as good wine as any in Europe. The fruit was all the more relishing to us, because we wanted bread."

Other travelers besides Hennepin, passing this locality at an early day, also mention the same fact. It would seem, therefore, that Lake Michigan had the same modifying influence upon, and equalized the temperature of, its eastern shore, rendering it as famous for its wild fruits and grapes, two hundred years ago, as it has since become noted for the abundance and perfection of its cultivated varieties.

"Our men discovered prints of men's feet. The men were ordered

\* From the description given of the country, the time occupied, and forest growth, the voyagers must now be eastward of Michigan City, and where the lake shore trends more rapidly to the north.

to be upon guard and make no noise. In spite of this precaution, one of our men, finding a bear upon a tree, shot him dead and dragged him into camp. La Salle was very angry at this indiscretion, and, to avoid surprise, placed sentinels at the canoes, under which our effects had been put for protection against the rain. There was a hunting party of Fox Indians from the vicinity of Green Bay, about one hundred and twenty in number, encamped near to us, who, having heard the noise of the gun of the man who shot the bear, became alarmed, and sent out some of their men to discover who we were. These spies, creeping upon their bellies, and observing great silence, came in the night-time and stole the coat of La Salle's footman and some goods secreted under the canoes. The sentinel, hearing a noise, gave the alarm, and we all ran to our arms. On being discovered, and thinking our numbers were greater than we really were, they cried out, in the dark, that they were friends. We answered, friends did not visit at such unseasonable hours, and that their actions were more like those of robbers, who designed to plunder and kill us. Their headsmen replied that they heard the noise of our gun, and, as they knew that none of the neighboring tribes possessed firearms, they supposed we were a war party of Iroquois, come with the design of murdering them; but now that they learned we were Frenchmen from Canada, whom they loved as their own brethren, they would anxiously wait until daylight, so that they could smoke out of our calumet. This is a compliment among the savages, and the highest mark they can give of their affection.

"We appeared satisfied with their reasons, and gave leave to four of their old men, only, to come into our camp, telling them we would not permit a greater number, as their young men were much given to stealing, and that we would not suffer such indignities. Accordingly, four of their old men came among us; we entertained them until morning, when they departed. After they were gone, we found out about the robbery of the canoes, and La Salle, well knowing the genius of the savages, saw, if he allowed this affront to pass without resenting it, that we would be constantly exposed to a renewal of like indignities. Therefore, it was resolved to exact prompt satisfaction. La Salle, with four of his men, went out and captured two of the Indian hunters. One of the prisoners confessed the robbery, with the circumstances connected with it. The thief was detained, and his comrade was released and sent to his band to tell their headsmen that the captive in custody would be put to death unless the stolen property were returned.

"The savages were greatly perplexed at La Salle's peremptory mes-



sage. They could not comply, for they had cut up the goods and coat and divided among themselves the pieces and the buttons; they therefore resolved to rescue their man by force. The next day, October 30, they advanced to attack us. The peninsula we were encamped on was separated from the forest where the savages lay by a little sandy plain, on which and near the wood were two or three eminences. La Salle determined to take possession of the most prominent of these elevations, and detached five of his men to occupy it, following himself, at a short distance, with all of his force, every one having rolled their coats about the left arm, which was held up as a protection against the arrows of the savages. Only eight of the enemy had fire-arms. The savages were frightened at our advance, and their young men took behind the trees, but their captains stood their ground, while we moved forward and seized the knoll. I left the two other Franciscans reading the usual prayers, and went about among the men exhorting them to their duty; I had been in some battles and sieges in Europe, and was not afraid of these savages, and La Salle was highly pleased with my exhortations, and their influence upon his men. When I considered what might be the result of the quarrel, and how much more Christian-like it would be to prevent the effusion of blood, and end the difficulty in a friendly manner, I went toward the oldest savage, who, seeing me unarmed, supposed I came with designs of a mediator, and received me with civility. In the meantime one of our men observed that one of the savages had a piece of the stolen cloth wrapped about his head, and he went up to the savage and snatched the cloth away. This vigorous action so much terrified the savages that, although they were near six score against eleven, they presented me with the pipe of peace, which I received. M. La Salle gave his word that they might come to him in security. Two of their old men came forward, and in a speech disapproved the conduct of their young men; that they could not restore the goods taken, but that, having been cut to pieces, they could only return the articles which were not spoiled, and pay for the rest. The orators presented, with their speeches, some garments made of beaver skins, to appease the wrath of M. La Salle, who, frowning a little, informed them that while he designed to wrong no one, he did not intend others should affront or injure him; but, inasmuch as they did not approve what their young men had done, and were willing to make restitution for the same, he would accept their gifts and become their friend. The conditions were fully complied with, and peace happily concluded without farther hostility.

“The day was spent in dancing, feasting and speech-making. The chief of the band had taken particular notice of the behavior of the



Franciscans. 'These gray-coats,'\* said the chief of the Foxes, 'we value very much. They go barefooted as well as we. They scorn our beaver gowns, and decline all other presents. They do not carry arms to kill us. They flatter and make much of our children, and give them knives and other toys without expecting any reward. Those of our tribe who have been to Canada tell us that Onnotio (so they call the Governor) loves them very much, and that the Fathers of the Gown have given up all to come and see us. Therefore, you who are captain over all these men, be pleased to leave with us one of these gray-coats, whom we will conduct to our village when we shall have killed what we design of the buffaloes. Thou art also master of these warriors; remain with us, instead of going among the Illinois, who, already advised of your coming, are resolved to kill you and all of your soldiers. And how can you resist so powerful nation?'

"The day November 1st we again embarked on the lake, and came to the mouth of the river of the Miamis, which comes from the south-east and falls into the lake."

\* While the Jesuit Fathers wore black gowns as a distinctive mark of their sect, the Recollects, or Franciscan missionaries, wore coats of gray.

## CHAPTER X.

### THE SEVERAL MIAMIS—LA SALLE'S VOYAGE DOWN THE ILLINOIS.

MUCH confusion has arisen because, at different periods, the name of "Miami" has been applied to no less than five different rivers, viz.: The St. Joseph, of Lake Michigan; the Maumee, often designated as the Miami of the Lakes, to distinguish it from the Miami which falls into the Ohio River below Cincinnati; then there is the Little Miami of the Ohio emptying in above its greater namesake; and finally the Wabash, which with more propriety bore the name of the "River of the Miamis." The French, it is assumed, gave the name "Miami" to the river emptying into Lake Michigan, for the reason that there was a village of that tribe on its banks before and at the time of La Salle's first visit, as already noted on page 24. The name was not of long duration, for it was soon exchanged for that of St. Joseph, by which it has ever since been known. La Hontan is the last authority who refers to it by the name of Miami. Shortly after the year named, the date being now unknown, a Catholic mission was established up the river, and, Charlevoix says, about six leagues below the portage, at South Bend, and called the Mission of St. Joseph; and from this circumstance, we may safely infer, the river acquired the same name. It is not known, either, by whom the Mission of St. Joseph was organized; very probably, however, by Father Claude Allouez. This good man, and to whose writings the people of the west are so largely indebted for many valuable historical reminiscences, seems to have been forgotten in the respect that is showered upon other more conspicuous though less meritorious characters. The Mission of the Immaculate Conception, after Marquette's death, remained unoccupied for the space of two years, then Claude Jean Allouez received orders to proceed thither from the Mission of St. James, at the town of Maskontens, on Fox River, Wisconsin. Leaving in October, 1676, on account of an exceptionally early winter, he was compelled to delay his journey until the following February, when he again started; reaching Lake Michigan on the eve of St. Joseph, he called the lake after this saint. Embarking on the lake on the 23d of March, and coasting along the western shore, after numerous delays occasioned by ice and storm, he arrived at Chicago River. He then made the portage and entered the

Kaskaskia village, which was probably near Peoria Lake, on the 8th of April, 1677. The Indians gave him a very cordial reception, and flocked from all directions to the town to hear the "Black Gown" relate the truths of Christianity. For the glorification of God and the Blessed Virgin Immaculate, Allouez "erected, in the midst of the village, a cross twenty-five feet high, chanting the *Vexilla Regis* in the presence of an admiring and respectful throng of Indians; he covered it with garlands of beautiful flowers."\* Father Allouez did not remain but a short time at the mission; leaving it that spring he returned in 1678, and continued there until La Salle's arrival in the winter of 1679-80. The next succeeding decade Allouez passed either at this mission or at the one on St. Joseph's River, on the eastern side of Lake Michigan, where he died in 1690. Bancroft says: "Allouez has imperishably connected his name with the progress of discovery in the West; unhonored among us now, he was not inferior in zeal and ability to any of the great missionaries of his time."

We resume Hennepin's narrative:

"We had appointed this place (the mouth of the St. Joseph) for our rendezvous before leaving the outlet of Green Bay, and expected to meet the twenty men we had left at Mackinaw, who, being ordered to come by the eastern coast of the lake, had a much shorter cut than we, who came by the western side; besides this, their canoes were not so heavily laden as ours. Still, we found no one here, nor any signs that they had been here before us.†

"It was resolved to advise M. La Salle that it was imprudent to remain here any longer for the absent men, and expose ourselves to the hardships of winter, when it would be doubtful if we could find the Illinois in their villages, as then they would be divided into families, and scattered over the country to subsist more conveniently. We further represented that the game might fail us, in which event we must certainly perish with hunger; whereas, if we went forward, we would find enough corn among the Illinois, who would rather supply

\* "Allouez' Journal," published in Shea's "Discovery on Exploration of the Mississippi Valley."

† In some works, the Geological Surveys of Indiana for 1873, p. 458, among others, it is erroneously assumed that La Salle was the discoverer of the St. Joseph River. While Fathers Hennepin and Zenobe Membre, who were with La Salle, may be the only accessible authors who have described it, the stream and its location was well known to La Salle and to them, as appears from their own account of it before they had ever seen it. Before leaving Mackinaw, Tonti was ordered to hunt up the deserters from, and to bring in the tardy traders belonging to, La Salle's party, and conduct them to the mouth of the St. Joseph. The pilot of the Griffin was under instruction to bring her there. Indeed, the conduct of the whole expedition leaves no room to doubt that the whole route to the Illinois River, by way of the St. Joseph and the Kankakee portage, was well known at Mackinaw, and definitely fixed upon by La Salle, at least before leaving the latter place.

fourteen men than thirty-two with provisions. We said further that it would be quite impossible, if we delayed longer, to continue the voyage until the winter was over, because the rivers would be frozen over and we could not make use of our canoes. Notwithstanding these reasons, M. La Salle thought it necessary to remain for the rest of the men, as we would be in no condition to appear before the Illinois and treat with them with our present small force, whom they would meet with scorn. That it would be better to delay our entry into their country, and in the meantime try to meet with some of their nation, learn their language, and gain their good will by presents. La Salle concluded his discourse with the declaration that, although all of his men might run away, as for himself, he would remain alone with his Indian hunter, and find means to maintain the three missionaries—meaning me and my two clerical brethren. Having come to this conclusion, La Salle called his men together, and advised them that he expected each one to do his duty; that he proposed to build a fort here for the security of the ship and the safety of our goods, and ourselves, too, in case of any disaster. None of us, at this time, knew that our ship had been lost. The men were quite dissatisfied at La Salle's course, but his reasons therefor were so many that they yielded, and agreed to entirely follow his directions.

“Just at the mouth of the river was an eminence with a kind of plateau, naturally fortified. It was quite steep, of a triangular shape, defended on two sides by the river, and on the other by a deep ravine which the water had washed out. We felled the trees that grew on this hill, and cleared from it the bushes for the distance of two musket shot. We began to build a redoubt about forty feet long by eighty broad, with great square pieces of timber laid one upon the other, and then cut a great number of stakes, some twenty feet long, to drive into the ground on the river side, to make the fort inaccessible in that direction. We were employed the whole of the month of November in this work, which was very fatiguing,—having no other food than the bears our savage killed. These animals are here very abundant, because of the great quantity of grapes they find in this vicinity. Their flesh was so fat and luscious that our men grew weary of it, and desired to go themselves and hunt for wild goats. La Salle denied them that liberty, which made some murmurs among the men, and they went unwillingly to their work. These annoyances, with the near approach of winter, together with the apprehension that his ship was lost, gave La Salle a melancholy which he resolutely tried to but could not conceal.

“We made a hut wherein we performed divine service every Sun-



day; and Father Gabriel and myself, who preached alternately, carefully selected such texts as were suitable to our situation, and fit to inspire us with courage, concord, and brotherly love. Our exhortations produced good results, and deterred our men from their meditated desertion. We sounded the mouth of the river and found a sand-bar, on which we feared our expected ship might strike; we marked out a channel through which the vessel might safely enter by attaching buoys, made of inflated bear-skins, fastened to long poles driven into the bed of the lake. Two men were also sent back to Mackinac to await there the return of the ship, and serve as pilots.\*

"M. Tonti arrived on the 20th of November with two canoes, laden with stags and deer, which were a welcome refreshment to our men. He did not bring more than about one-half of his men, having left the rest on the opposite side of the lake, within three days' journey of the fort. La Salle was angry with him on this account, because he was afraid the men would run away. Tonti's party informed us that the Griffin had not put into Mackinaw, according to orders, and that they had heard nothing of her since our departure, although they had made inquiries of the savages living on the coast of the lake. This confirmed the suspicion, or rather the belief, that the vessel had been cast away. However, M. La Salle continued work on the building of the fort, which was at last completed and called Fort Miamis.

"The winter was drawing nigh, and La Salle, fearful that the ice would interrupt his voyage, sent M. Tonti back to hurry forward the men he had left, and to command them to come to him immediately; but, meeting with a violent storm, their canoes were driven against the beach and broken to pieces, and Tonti's men lost their guns and equipage, and were obliged to return to us overland. A few days after this all our men arrived except two, who had deserted. We prepared at once to resume our voyage; rains having fallen that melted the ice and made the rivers navigable.

"On the 3d of December, 1679, we embarked, being in all thirty-three men, in eight canoes. We left the lake of the Illinois and went up the river of the Miamis, in which we had previously made soundings. We made about five-and-twenty leagues southward, but failed to discover the place where we were to land, and carry our canoes and effects into the river of the Illinois, which falls into that of the Meschasiipi, that is, in the language of the Illinois, the great river. We had already gone beyond the place of the portage, and, not knowing where we were, we thought proper to remain there, as we were expecting M. La Salle, who had taken to the land to view the country.

\* This is the beginning, at what is now known as Benton Harbor, Michigan.

We staid here quite a while, and, La Salle failing to appear, I went a distance into the woods with two men, who fired off their guns to notify him of the place where we were. In the meantime two other men went higher up the river, in canoes, in search of him. We all returned toward evening, having vainly endeavored to find him. The next day I went up the river myself, but, hearing nothing of him, I came back, and found our men very much perplexed, fearing he was lost. However, about four o'clock in the afternoon M. La Salle returned to us, having his face and hands as black as pitch. He carried two beasts, as big as muskrats, whose skin was very fine, and like ermine. He had killed them with a stick, as they hung by their tails to the branches of the trees.

“He told us that the marshes he had met on his way had compelled him to bring a large compass; and that, being much delayed by the snow, which fell very fast, it was past midnight before he arrived upon the banks of the river, where he fired his gun twice, and, hearing no answer, he concluded that we had gone higher up the river, and had, therefore, marched that way. He added that, after three hours' march, he saw a fire upon a little hill, whither he went directly and hailed us several times; but, hearing no reply, he approached and found no person near the fire, but only some dry grass, upon which a man had laid a little while before, as he conjectured, because the bed was still warm. He supposed that a savage had been occupying it, who fled upon his approach, and was now hid in ambuscade near by. La Salle called out loudly to him in two or three languages, saying that he need not be afraid of him, and that he was agoing to lie in his bed. La Salle received no answer. To guard against surprise, La Salle cut bushes and placed them to obstruct the way, and sat down by the fire, the smoke of which blackened his hands and face, as I have already observed. Having warmed and rested himself, he laid down under the tree upon the dry grass the savage had gathered and slept well, notwithstanding the frost and snow. Father Gabriel and I desired him to keep with his men, and not to expose himself in the future, as the success of our enterprise depended solely on him, and he promised to follow our advice. Our savage, who remained behind to hunt, finding none of us at the portage, came higher up the river, to where we were, and told us we had missed the place. We sent all the canoes back under his charge except one, which I retained for M. La Salle, who was so weary that he was obliged to remain there that night. I made a little hut with mats, constructed with marsh rushes, in which we laid down together for the night. By an unhappy accident our cabin took fire, and we were very near being burned alive after we had gone to sleep.”

Here follows Hennepin's description of the Kankakee portage, and of the marshy grounds about the headwaters of this stream, as already quoted on page 24.

"Having passed through the marshes, we came to a vast prairie, in which nothing grows but grasses, which were at this time dry and burnt, because the Miamis set the grasses on fire every year, in hunting for wild oxen (buffalo), as I shall mention farther on. We found no game, which was a disappointment to us, as our provisions had begun to fail. Our men traveled about sixty miles without killing anything other than a lean stag, a small wild goat, a few swan and two bustards, which were but a scanty subsistence for two and thirty men. Most of the men were become so weary of this laborious life that, were it practicable, they would have run away and joined the savages, who, as we inferred by the great fires which we saw on the prairies, were not very far from us. There must be an innumerable quantity of wild cattle in this country, since the ground here is everywhere covered with their horns. The Miamis hunt them toward the latter end of autumn."\*

That part of the Illinois River above the Desplaines is called the Kankakee, which is a corruption of its original Indian name. St. Cosme, the narrative of whose voyage down the Illinois River, by way of Chicago, in 1699, and found in Dr. Shea's work of "Early Voyages Up and Down the Mississippi," refers to it as the The-a-li-ke, "which is the real river of the Illinois, and (says) that which we descended (the Desplaines) was only a branch." Father Marest, in his letter of November 9, 1712, narrating a journey he had previously made from Kaskaskia up to the Mission of St. Joseph, says of the Illinois River: "We transported all there was in the canoe toward the source of the Illinois (Indian), which they call Hau-ki-ki." Father Charlevoix, who descended the Kankakee from the portage, in his letter, dated at the source of the river Theakiki, September 17, 1721, says: "This morning I walked a league farther in the meadow, having my feet almost always in the water; afterward I met with a kind of a pool or marsh, which had a communication with several others of different sizes, but the largest was about a hundred paces in circuit; these are the sources of the river The-a-ki-ki, which, by a corrupted pronunciation, our Indians call Ki-a-ki-ki. Theak signifies a wolf, in what language I do not remember, but the river bears that name because the Mahingans (Mohicans), who were likewise called wolves, had formerly

\* Hennepin and his party were not aware of the migratory habits of the buffalo; and that their scarcity on the Kankakee in the winter months was because the herds had gone southward to warmer latitude and better pasturage.



taken refuge on its banks." \* The Mohicans were of the Algonquin stock, anciently living east of the Hudson River, where they had been so persecuted and nearly destroyed by the implacable Iroquois that their tribal integrity was lost, and they were dispersed in small families over the west, seeking protection in isolated places, or living at sufferance among their Algonquin kindred. They were brave, faithful to the extreme, famous scouts, and successful hunters. La Salle, appreciating these valuable traits, usually kept a few of them in his employ. The "savage," or "hunter," so often referred to by Hennepin, in the extracts we have taken from his journal, was a Mohican.

In a report made to the late Governor Ninian Edwards, in 1812, by John Hays, interpreter and Coureur de Bois of the routes, rivers and Indian villages in the then Illinois Territory, Mr. Hays calls the Kankakee the *Quin-que-que*, which was probably its French-Indian name.† Col. Guerdon S. Hubbard, who for many years, dating back as early as 1819, was a trader, and commanded great influence with the bands of Pottawatomies, claiming the Kankakee as their country, informs the writer that the Pottawatomie name of the Kankakee is *Ky-an-ke-a-kee*, meaning "the river of the wonderful or beautiful land,—as it really is, westward of the marshes. "A-kee," "Ah-ke" and "Aki," in the Algonquin dialect, signifies earth or land.

The name Desplaines, like that of the Kankakee, has undergone changes in the progress of time. On a French map of Louisiana, in 1717, the Desplaines is laid down as the Chicago River. Just after Great Britain had secured the possessions of the French east of the Mississippi, by conquest and treaty, and when the British authorities were keenly alive to everything pertaining to their newly acquired possessions, an elaborate map, collated from the most authentic sources by Eman Bowen, geographer to His Majesty King George the Third, was issued, and on this map the Desplaines is laid down as the Illinois, or Chicago River. Many early French writers speak of it, as they do of the Kankakee above the confluence, as the "River of the Illinois." Its French Canadian name is *Au Plein*, now changed to *Desplaines*, or *Rivière Au Plein*, or *Despleines*, from a variety of hard maple,—that is to say, sugar tree. The Pottawatomies called it *Sheshik-mao-shi-ke Se-pe*, signifying the river of the tree from which a great quantity of sap flows in the spring.‡ It has also been sanctified by Father Zenobe Membre with the name Divine River, and by authors

\* Charlevoix' "Journal of a Voyage to America," vol. 2, p. 184. London edition, 1761.

† "History of Illinois and Life of Governor Edwards," by his son Ninian W. Edwards, p. 98.

‡ Long's Second Expedition, vol. 1, p. 173.



of early western gazetteers, vulgarized by the appellation of *Kickapoo Creek*.

Below the confluence of the Desplaines, the Illinois River was, by La Salle, named the Seignelay, as a mark of his esteem for the brilliant young Colbert, who succeeded his father as Minister of the Marine. On the great map, prepared by the engineer Franquelin in 1684, it is called River Des Illinois, or Macoupins. The name Illinois, which, fortunately, it will always bear, was derived from the name of the confederated tribes who anciently dwelt upon its banks.

"We continued our course," says Hennepin, "upon this river (the Kankakee and Illinois) very near the whole month of December, at the latter end of which we arrived at a village of the Illinois, which lies near a hundred and thirty leagues from Fort Miamis, on the Lake of the Illinois. We suffered greatly on the passage, for the savages having set fire to the grass on the prairie, the wild cattle had fled, and we did not kill one. Some wild turkeys were the only game we secured. God's providence supported us all the while, and as we meditated upon the extremities to which we were reduced, regarding ourselves without hope of relief, we found a very large wild ox sticking fast in the mud of the river. We killed him, and with much difficulty dragged him out of the mud. This was a great refreshment to our men; it revived their courage,—being so timely and unexpectedly relieved, they concluded that God approved our undertaking.

The great village of the Illinois, where La Salle's party had now arrived, has been located with such certainty by Francis Parkman, the learned historical writer, as to leave no doubt of its identity. It was on the north side of the Illinois River, above the mouth of the Vermillion and below Starved Rock, near the little village of Utica, in La Salle county, Illinois.\*

"We found," continues Father Hennepin, "no one in the village, as we had foreseen, for the Illinois, according to their custom, had divided themselves into small hunting parties. Their absence caused great perplexity amongst us, for we wanted provisions, and yet did not dare to meddle with the Indian corn the savages had laid under ground for their subsistence and for seed. However, our necessity being very great, and it being impossible to continue our voyage without any provisions, M. La Salle resolved to take about forty bushels of corn, and hoped to appease the savages with presents. We embarked again, with these fresh provisions, and continued to fall down the river,

\* Mr. Parkman gives an interesting account of his recent visit to, and the identification of, the locality, in an elaborate note in his "Discovery of the Great West," pp. 221, 222.

which runs directly toward the south. On the 1st of January we went through a lake (Peoria Lake) formed by the river, about seven leagues long and one broad. The savages call that place Pimeteoui, that is, in their tongue, 'a place where there is an abundance of fat animals.' \*

Resuming Hennepin's narrative: "The current brought us, in the meantime, to the Indian camp, and M. La Salle was the first one to land, followed closely by his men, which increased the consternation of the savages, whom we easily might have defeated. As it was not our design, we made a halt to give them time to recover themselves and to see that we were not enemies. Most of the savages who had run away upon our landing, understanding that we were friends, returned; but some others did not come back for three or four days, and after they had learned that we had smoked the calumet.

"I must observe here, that the hardest winter does not last longer than two months in this charming country, so that on the 15th of January there came a sudden thaw, which made the rivers navigable, and the weather as mild as it is in France in the middle of the spring. M. La Salle, improving this fair season, desired me to go *down* the river with him to choose a place proper to build a fort. We selected an eminence on the bank of the river, defended on that side by the river, and on two others by deep ravines, so that it was accessible only on one side. We cast a trench to join the two ravines, and made the eminence steep on that side, supporting the earth with great pieces of timber. We made a rough palisade to defend ourselves in case the Indians should attack us while we were engaged in building the fort; but no one offering to disturb us, we went on diligently with our work.

\* Louis Beck, in his "Gazetteer of Illinois and Missouri," p. 119, says: "The Indians call the lake Pin-a-tah-wee, on account of its being frequently covered with a scum which has a greasy appearance." Owing to the rank growth of aquatic plants in the Illinois River before they were disturbed by the frequent passage of boats, and to the grasses on the borders of the stream and the adjacent marshes, and the decay taking place in both under the scorching rays of the summer's sun, the surface of the river and lake were frequently coated with this vegetable decomposition. Prof. Schoolcraft ascended the Illinois River, and was at Fort Clark on the 19th of August, 1821. Under this date is the following extract from his "Narrative Journal": "About 9 o'clock in the morning we came to a part of the river which was covered for several hundred yards with a scum or froth of the most intense green color, and emitting a nauseous exhalation that was almost insupportable. We were compelled to pass through it. The fine green color of this somewhat compact scum, resembling that of *verdegis*, led us at the moment to conjecture that it might derive this character from some mineral spring or vein in the bed of the river, but we had reasons afterward to regret this opinion. I directed one of the canoe men to collect a bottle of this mother of miasmata for preservation, but its fermenting nature baffled repeated attempts to keep it corked. We had daily seen instances of the powerful tendency of these waters to facilitate the decomposition of floating vegetation, but had not before observed any in so mature and complete a state of putrefaction. It might certainly justify an observer less given to fiction than the ancient poets, to people this stream with the Hydra, as were the pestilential-breeding marshes of Italy."—Schoolcraft's "Central Mississippi Valley," p. 305.

When the fort was half finished, M. La Salle lodged himself, with M. Tonti, in the middle of the fortification, and every one took his post. We placed the forge on the curtain on the side of the wood, and laid in a great quantity of coal for that purpose. But our greatest difficulty was to build a boat,—our carpenters having deserted us, we did not know what to do. However, as timber was abundant and near at hand, we told our men that if any of them would undertake to saw boards for building the bark, we might surmount all other difficulties. Two of the men undertook the task, and succeeded so well that we began to build a bark, the keel whereof was forty-two feet long. Our men went on so briskly with the work, that on the 1st of March our boat was half built, and all the timber ready prepared for furnishing it. Our fort was also very near finished, and we named it ‘Fort Creve-cœur,’ because the desertion of our men, and other difficulties we had labored under, had almost ‘broken our hearts.’\*

“M. La Salle,” says Hennepin, “no longer doubted that the Griffin was lost; but neither this nor other difficulties dejected him. His great courage buoyed him up, and he resolved to return to Fort Frontenac by land, notwithstanding the snow, and the great dangers attending so long a journey. We had many private conferences, wherein it was decided that he should return to Fort Frontenac with three men, to bring with him the necessary articles to proceed with the discovery, while I, with two men, should go in a canoe to the River Meschisipi, and endeavor to obtain the friendship of the nations who inhabited its banks.

“M. La Salle left M. Tonti to command in Fort Crevecœur, and ordered our carpenter to prepare some thick boards to plank the deck of our ship, in the nature of a parapet, to cover it against the arrows of the savages in case they should shoot at us from the shore. Then, calling his men together, La Salle requested them to obey M. Tonti’s orders in his absence, to live in Christian union and charity; to be courageous and firm in their designs; and above all not to give credit to false reports the savages might make, either of him or of their comrades who accompanied Father Hennepin.”

Hennepin and his two companions, with a supply of trinkets suitable

\* “Fort Crevecœur,” or the *Broken Heart*, was built on the east side of the Illinois River, a short distance below the outlet of Peoria Lake. It is so located on the great map of Franquelin, made at Quebec in 1684. There are many indications on this map, going to show that it was constructed largely under the supervision of La-Salle. The fact mentioned by Hennepin, that they went down the river, and that coal was gathered for the supply of the fort, would confirm this theory as to its location; for the outcrop of coal is abundant in the bluffs on the east side of the river below Peoria. There is also a spot in this immediate vicinity that answers well to the site of the fort as described by Fathers Hennepin and Membre.



for the Indian trade, left Fort Crevecoeur for the Mississippi, on the 29th of February, 1680, and were captured by the Sioux, as already stated. From this time to the ultimate discovery and taking possession of the Mississippi and the valleys by La Salle, Father Zenobe Membre was the historian of the expedition.

La Salle started across the country, going up the Illinois and Kankakee, and through the southern part of the present State of Michigan. He reached the Detroit River, ferrying the stream with a raft; he at length stood on Canadian soil. Striking a direct line across the wilderness, he arrived at Lake Erie, near Point Pelee. By this time only one man remained in health, and with his assistance La Salle made a canoe. Embarking in it the party came to Niagara on Easter Monday. Leaving his comrades, who were completely exhausted, La Salle on the 6th of May reached Fort Frontenac, making a journey of over a thousand miles in sixty-five days, "the greatest feat ever performed by a Frenchman in America."\*

La Salle found his affairs in great confusion. His creditors had seized upon his estate, including Fort Frontenac. Undaunted by this new misfortune, he confronted his creditors and enemies, pacifying the former and awing the latter into silence. He gathered the fragments of his scattered property and in a short time started west with a company of twenty-five men, whom he had recruited to assist in the prosecution of his discoveries. He reached Lake Huron by the way of Lake Simcoe, and shortly afterward arrived at Mackinaw. Here he found that his enemies had been very busy, and had poisoned the minds of the Indians against his designs.

We leave La Salle at Mackinaw to notice some of the occurrences that took place on the Illinois and St. Joseph after he had departed for Fort Frontenac. On this journey, as La Salle passed up the Illinois, he was favorably impressed with Starved Rock as a place presenting strong defenses naturally. He sent word back to Tonti, below Peoria Lake, to take possession of "The Rock" and erect a fortification on its summit. Tonti accordingly came up the river with a part of his available force and began to work upon the new fort. While engaged in this enterprise the principal part of the men remaining at Fort Crevecoeur mutinied. They destroyed the vessel on the stocks, plundered the storehouse, escaped up the Illinois River and appeared before Fort Miami. These deserters demolished Fort Miami and robbed it of goods and furs of La Salle, on deposit there, and then fled out of the country. These misfortunes were soon followed by an incursion of the Iroquois,

\* Parkman's "Discovery of the Great West."



who attacked the Illinois in their village near the Starved Rock. Tonti, acting as mediator, came near losing his life at the hand of an infuriated Iroquois warrior, who drove a knife into his ribs. Constantly an object of distrust to the Illinois, who feared he was a spy and friend of the Iroquois, in turn exposed to the jealousy of the Iroquois, who imagined he and his French friends were allies of the Illinois, Tonti remained faithful to his trust until he saw that he could not avert the blow meditated by the Iroquois. Then, with Fathers Zenobe Membre and Gabriel Rebourde, and a few Frenchmen who had remained faithful, he escaped from the enraged Indians and made his way, in a leaky canoe, up the Illinois River. Father Gabriel one fine day left his companions on the river to enjoy a walk in the beautiful groves near by, and while thus engaged, and as he was meditating upon his holy calling, fell into an ambuscade of Kickapoo Indians. The good old man, unconscious of his danger, was instantly knocked down, the scalp torn from his venerable head, and his gray hairs afterward exhibited in triumph by his young murderers as a trophy taken from the crown of an Iroquois warrior. Tonti, with those in his company, pursued his course, passing by Chicago, and thence up the west shore of Lake Michigan. Subsisting on berries, and often on acorns and roots which they dug from the ground, they finally arrived at the Pottawatomie towns. Previous to this they abandoned their canoe and started on foot for the Mission of Green Bay, where they wintered.

La Salle, when he arrived at St. Joseph, found Fort Miamis plundered and demolished. He also learned that the Iroquois had attacked the Illinois. Fearing for the safety of Tonti, he pushed on rapidly, only to find, at Starved Rock, the unmistakable signs of an Indian slaughter. The report was true. The Iroquois had defeated the Illinois and driven them west of the Mississippi. La Salle viewed the wreck of his cherished project, the demolition of the fort, the loss of his peltries, and especially the destruction of his vessel, in that usual calm way peculiar to him; and, although he must have suffered the most intense anguish, no trace of sorrow or indecision appeared on his inflexible countenance. Shortly afterward he returned to Fort Miamis. La Salle occupied his time, until spring, in rebuilding Fort Miamis, holding conferences with the surrounding Indian tribes, and confederating them against future attacks of the Iroquois. He now abandoned the purpose of descending the Mississippi in a sailing vessel, and determined to prosecute his voyage in the ordinary wooden pirogues or canoes.

Tonti was sent forward to Chicago Creek, where he constructed a number of sledges. After other preparations had been made, La Salle

and his party left St. Joseph and came around the southern extremity of the lake. The goods and effects were placed on the sledges prepared by Tonti. La Salle's party consisted of twenty-three Frenchmen and eighteen Indians. The savages took with them ten squaws and three children, so that the party numbered in all fifty-four persons. They had to make the portage of the Chicago River. After dragging their canoes, sledges, baggage and provisions about eighty leagues over the ice, on the Desplaines and Illinois Rivers, they came to the great Indian town. It was deserted, the savages having gone down the river to Lake Peoria. From Peoria Lake the navigation was open, and embarking, on the 6th of February, they soon arrived at the Mississippi. Here, owing to floating ice, they were delayed till the 13th of the same month. Membre describes the Missouri as follows: "It is full as large as the Mississippi, into which it empties, troubling it so that, from the mouth of the Ozage (Missouri), the water is hardly drinkable. The Indians assured us that this river is formed by many others, and that they ascend it for ten or twelve days to a mountain where it rises; that beyond this mountain is the sea, where they see great ships; that on the river are a great number of large villages. Although this river is very large, the Mississippi does not seem augmented by it, but it pours in so much mud that, from its mouth, the water of the great river, whose bed is also slimy, is more like clear mud than river water, without changing at all till it reaches the sea, a distance of more than three hundred leagues, although it receives seven large rivers, the water of which is very beautiful, and which are almost as large as the Mississippi." From this time, until they neared the mouths of the Mississippi, nothing especially worthy of note occurred. On the 6th of April they came to the place where the river divides itself into three channels. M. La Salle took the western, the Sieur Dautray the southern, and Tonti, accompanied by Membre, followed the middle channel. The three channels were beautiful and deep. The water became brackish, and two leagues farther it became perfectly salt, and advancing on they at last beheld the Gulf of Mexico. La Salle, in a canoe, coasted the borders of the sea, and then the parties assembled on a dry spot of ground not far from the mouth of the river. On the 9th of April, with all the pomp and ceremony of the Holy Catholic Church, La Salle, in the name of the French King, took possession of the Mississippi and all its tributaries. First they chanted the "Vexilla Regis" and "Te Deum," and then, while the assembled voyageurs and their savage attendants fired their muskets and shouted "Vive le Roi," La Salle planted the column, at the same time proclaiming, in a loud voice, "In the name of the Most High, Mighty,

Invincible, and Victorious Prince, Louis the Great, by the Grace of God King of France and of Navarre, Fourteenth of that name, I, this 9th day of April, one thousand six hundred and eighty-two, in virtue of the commission of His Majesty, which I hold in my hand, and which may be seen by all whom it may concern, have taken, and do now take, in the name of His Majesty and his successors to the crown, possession of this country of Louisiana, the seas, harbors, ports, bays, adjacent straits, and all the people, nations, provinces, cities, towns, villages, mines, minerals, fisheries, streams and rivers within the extent of the said Louisiana, from the mouth of the great river St. Louis, otherwise called Ohio, as also along the river Colbert, or Mississippi, and the rivers which discharge themselves therein, from its source beyond the country of the Nadonessious (Sioux), as far as its mouth at the sea, and also to the mouth of the river of Palms, upon the assurance we have had from the natives of these countries that we were the first Europeans who have descended or ascended the river Colbert (Mississippi); hereby protesting against all who may hereafter undertake to invade any or all of these aforesaid countries, peoples or lands, to the prejudice of His Majesty, acquired by the consent of the nations dwelling herein. Of which, and of all else that is needful, I hereby take to witness those who hear me, and demand an act of the notary here present."

At the foot of the tree to which the cross was attached La Salle caused to be buried a leaden plate, on one side of which were engraven the arms of France, and on the opposite, the following Latin inscription:

LVDOVICUS MAGNUS REGNAT.

NONO APRILIS CIO IOC LXXXII.

ROBERTVS CAVALIER, CVM DOMINO DETONTI LEGATO, R. P. ZENOBIO MEMBRE, RECCOLLECTO, ET VIGINTI GALLIS PRIMVS HOC FLVMEN, INDE AB ILINEORVM PAGO ENAVAGAVIT, EZVQUE OSTIVM FECIT PERVIVM, NONO APRILIS ANNI.

CIO IOC LXXXI.

NOTE.—The following is a translation of the inscription on the leaden plate:

"Louis the Great reigns.

"Robert Cavalier, with Lord Tonti as Lieutenant, R. P. Zenobe Membre, Recollect, and twenty Frenchmen, first navigated this stream from the country of the Illinois, and also passed through its mouth, on the 9th of April, 1682."

After which, La Salle remarked that His Majesty, who was the eldest son of the Holy Catholic Church, would not annex any country to his dominion without giving especial attention to establish the



Christian religion therein. He then proceeded at once to erect a cross, before which the "Vexilla" and "Domine Salvum fac Regem" were sung. The ceremony was concluded by shouting "Vive le Roi!"

Thus was completed the discovery and taking possession of the Mississippi valley. By that indisputable title, the right of discovery, attested by all those formalities recognized as essential by the laws of nations, the manuscript evidence of which was duly certified by a notary public brought along for that purpose, and witnessed by the signatures of La Salle and a number of other persons present on the occasion, France became the owner of all that vast country drained by the Mississippi and its tributaries. Bounded by the Alleghanies on the east, and the Rocky Mountains on the west, and extending from an undefined limit on the north to the burning sands of the Gulf on the south. Embracing within its area every variety of climate, watered with a thousand beautiful streams, containing vast prairies and extensive forests, with a rich and fertile soil that only awaited the husbandman's skill to yield bountiful harvests, rich in vast beds of bituminous coal and deposits of iron, copper and other ores, this magnificent domain was not to become the seat of a religious dogma, enforced by the power of state, but was designed under the hand of God to become the center of civilization,—the heart of the American republic,—where the right of conscience was to be free, without interference of law, and where universal liberty should only be restrained in so far as its unrestrained exercise might conflict with its equal enjoyment by all.

Had France, with the same energy she displayed in discovering Louisiana, retained her grasp upon this territory, the dominant race in the valley of the Mississippi would have been Gallic instead of Anglo-Saxon.

The manner in which France lost this possession in America will be referred to in a subsequent chapter.



## CHAPTER XI.

### LA SALLE'S RETURN, AND HIS DEATH IN ATTEMPTING A SETTLEMENT ON THE GULF.

LA SALLE and his party returned up the Mississippi. Before they reached Chickasaw Bluffs, La Salle was taken dangerously ill.

Dispatching Tonti ahead to Mackinaw, he remained there under the care of Father Membre. About the end of July he was enabled to proceed, and joined Tonti at Mackinaw, in September. Owing to the threatened invasion of the Iroquois, La Salle postponed his projected trip to France, and passed the winter at Fort St. Louis. From Fort St. Louis, it would seem, La Salle directed a letter to Count Frontenac, giving an account of his voyage to the Mississippi. It is short and historically interesting, and was first published in that rare little volume, Thevenot's "Collection of Voyages," published at Paris in 1687. This letter contains, perhaps, the first description of Chicago Creek and the harbor, and as everything pertaining to Chicago of a historical character is a matter of public interest, we insert La Salle's account. It seems that, even at that early day, almost two centuries ago, the idea of a canal connecting Lake Michigan and the Illinois was a subject of consideration :

"The creek (Chicago Creek) through which we went, from the lake of the Illinois into the Divine River (the Au Plein, or Des Plaines) is so shallow and so greatly exposed to storms that no ship can venture in except in a great calm. Neither is the country between the creek and the Divine River suitable for a canal ; for the prairies between them are submerged after heavy rains, and a canal would be immediately filled up with sand. Besides this, it is not possible to dig into the ground on account of the water, that country being nothing but a marsh. Supposing it were possible, however, to cut a canal, it would be useless, as the Divine River is not navigable for forty leagues together ; that is to say, from that place (the portage) to the village of the Illinois, except for canoes, and these have scarcely water enough in summer time."

The identity of the "River Chicago," of early explorers, with the modern stream of the same name, is clearly established by the map of Franquelin of 1684, as well, also, as by the Memoir of Sieur de Tonti.

The latter had occasion to pass through the Chicago River more frequently than any other person of his time, and his intimate acquaintance with the Indians in the vicinity would necessarily place his declarations beyond the suspicion of a mistake. Referring to his being sent in the fall of 1687, by La Salle, from Fort Miamis, at the mouth of the St. Joseph, to Chicago, already alluded to, he says: "We went in canoes to the 'River Chicago,' where there is a portage which joins that of the Illinois." \*

The name of this river is variously spelled by early writers, "Chicagon," † "Che-ka-kou," ‡ "Chikgoua." § In the prevailing Algonquin language the word signifies a polecat or skunk. The Aborigines, also, called garlic by nearly the same word, from which many authors have inferred that Chicago means "wild onion." ||

While La Salle was in the west, Count Frontenac was removed, and M. La Barre appointed Governor of Canada. The latter was the avowed enemy of La Salle. He injured La Salle in every possible

\* Tonti's Memoir, published in the Historical Collections of Louisiana, vol. 1, p. 59.

† Joutel's Journal.

‡ La Hontan.

§ Father Gravier's Narrative Journal, published in Dr. Shea's "Voyages Up and Down the Mississippi."

|| A writer of a historical sketch, published in a late number of "Potter's Monthly," on the isolated statement of an old resident of western Michigan, says that the Indians living thereabouts subsequent to the advent of the early settlers called Chicago "Tuck-Chicago," the meaning of which was, "a place without wood," and thus investing a mere fancy with the dignity of truth. The great city of the west has taken its name from the stream along whose margin it was first laid out, and it becomes important to preserve the origin of its name with whatever certainty a research of all accessible authorities may furnish. In the first place, Chicago was not a place "without wood," or trees; on the contrary, it is the only locality where timber was anything like abundant for the distance of miles around. The north and south branches westward, and the lake on the east, afforded ample protection against prairie fires; and Dr. John M. Peck, in his early Gazetteer of the state, besides other authorities, especially mention the fact that there was a good quality of timber in the vicinity of Chicago, particularly on the north branch. There is nowhere to be found in the several Indian vocabularies of Sir Alexander Mackenzie, Dr. Edwin James, and the late Albert Gallatin, in their extensive collections of Algonquin words, any expressions like those used by the writer in Potter's Monthly, bearing the signification which he attaches to them. In Mackenzie's Vocabulary, the Algonquin word for polecat is "*Shi-kak*." In Dr. James' Vocabulary, the word for skunk is "*She-gahg* (shegag); and *Shig-gau-ga-win-zheeg* is the plural for onion or garlic, literally, in the Indian dialect, "skunk-weeds." Dr. James, in a foot-note, says that from this word in the singular number, some have derived the name *Chi-ka-go*, which is commonly pronounced among the Indians, *Shig-gau-go*, and *Shi-gau-go-ong* (meaning) at Chicago.

An association of English traders, styling themselves the "Illinois Land Company," on the 5th of July, 1773, obtained from ten chiefs of the Kaskaskia, Cahokia and Peoria tribes, a deed for two large tracts of land. The second tract, in the description of its boundaries, contains the following expression: "and thence up the Illinois River, by the several courses thereof, to *Chicago*, or Garlic Creek;" and it may safely be assumed that the parties to the deed knew the names given to identify the grant. Were an additional reference necessary. "Wau Bun," the valuable work of Mrs. John H. Kinzie, might also be cited, p. 190. The Iroquois, who made frequent predatory excursions from their homes in New York to the Illinois country, called Chicago *Kan-era-ghik*; vide Cadwalder Colden's "History of the Five Nations."

way, and finally seized upon Fort Frontenac. To obtain redress, La-Salle went to France, reaching Rochelle on the 13th of December, 1683. Seignelay (young Colbert), Secretary of State and Minister of the Marine, was appealed to by La Salle, and became interested and furnished him timely aid in his enterprise.

Before leaving America La Salle ordered Tonti to proceed and finish "Fort St. Louis," as the fortification at Starved Rock, on the Illinois River, was named. "He charged me," says Tonti, "with the duty to go and finish Fort St. Louis, of which he gave me the government, with full power to dispose of the lands in the neighborhood, and left all his people under my command, with the exception of six Frenchmen, whom he took to accompany him to Quebec. We departed from Mackinaw on the same day, he for Canada and I for the Illinois.\* On his mission to France La Salle was received with honor by the king and his officers, and the accounts which he gave relative to Louisiana caused them to further his plans for its colonization. A squadron of four vessels was fitted out, the largest carrying thirty-six guns. About two hundred persons were embarked aboard of them for the purpose long projected, as we have foreseen, of establishing a settlement at the mouth of the Mississippi. The fleet was under the command of M. de Beaujeu, a naval officer of some distinction. He was punctilious in the exercise of authority, and had a wiry, nervous organization, as the portrait preserved of him clearly shows.† La Salle was austere, and lacked that faculty of getting along with men, for the want of which many of his best-laid plans failed. A constant bickering and collision of cross purposes was the natural result of such repellant natures as he and Beaujeu possessed.

After a stormy passage of the Atlantic, the fleet entered the Gulf of Mexico. Coasting along the northern shore of the gulf, they failed to discover the mouths of the Mississippi. Passing them, they finally landed in what is now known as Matagorda Bay, or the Bay of St. Barnard, near the River Colorado, in Texas, more than a hundred leagues westward of the Mississippi. The whole number of persons left on the beach is not definitely known. M. Joutel, one of the survivors, and the chronicler of this unfortunate undertaking, mentions one hundred and eighty, besides the crew of the "Belle," which was lost on the beach, consisting of soldiers, volunteers, workmen, women and children.‡ The colony being in a destitute condition, La Salle,

\*Tonti's Memoir.

† A fine steel engraving copy of Mons. Beaujeu is contained in Dr. Shea's translation of Charlevoix's "History of New France."

‡ Spark's "Life of La Salle."



accompanied by Father Anastius Douay and twenty others, set out to reach the Mississippi, intending to ascend to Fort St. Louis, and there obtain aid from Tonti. They set out on the 7th of January, and after several days' journey, reached the village of the Ceniz Indians. Here some of La Salle's men became dissatisfied with their hardships, and determined to slay him and then join the Indians. The tragic tale is thus related by Father Douay: "The wisdom of Monsieur de La Salle was unable to foresee the plot which some of his people would make to slay his nephew, as they suddenly resolved to do, and actually did, on the 17th of March, by a blow of an ax, dealt by one Liotot. They also killed the valet of the Sieur La Salle and his Indian servant, Nika, who, at the risk of his life, had supported them for three years. The wretches resolved not to stop here, and not satisfied with this murder, formed a design of attempting their commander's life, as they had reason to fear his resentment and chastisement. As M. La Salle and myself were walking toward the fatal spot where his nephew had been slain, two of those murderers, who were hidden in the grass, arose, one on each side, with guns cocked. One missed Monsieur La Salle; the other, firing at the same time, shot him in the head. He died an hour after, on the 19th of March, 1687.

"Thus," says Father Douay, "died our commander, constant in adversity, intrepid, generous, engaging, dexterous, skillful, capable of everything. He who for twenty years had softened the fierce temper of countless savage tribes was massacred by the hands of his own domestics, whom he had loaded with caresses. He died in the prime of life, in the midst of his course and labors, without having seen their success."\*

The colony which La Salle had left in Texas was surprised and destroyed by the Indians. Not a soul was left to give an account of the massacre. Of the twenty who accompanied him in his attempt to reach the Mississippi, Joutel, M. Cavalier, La Salle's brother, and four others determined to make a last attempt to find the Mississippi; the others, including La Salle's murderers, became the associates of the less brutal Indians, and of them we have no farther account. After a long and toilsome journey Joutel and his party reached the Mississippi near the mouth of the Arkansas. Here they found two men who had been sent by Tonti to relieve La Salle. Embarking in canoes, they went up the Mississippi, arrived at Fort St. Louis in safety, and finally returned to France by way of Quebec.

From this period until 1698 the French made no further attempts to colonize the Lower Mississippi. They had no settlements below the

\* Father Douay's Journal, contained in Dr. Shea's "Discovery and Exploration of the Mississippi."



Ohio, and above that river, on the Illinois and the upper lakes, were scattered only a few missions and trading posts.

Realizing the great importance of retaining possession of the Mississippi valley, the French court fitted out an expedition which consisted of four vessels, for the purpose of thoroughly exploring the mouth of the Mississippi and adjacent territory. Le Moyne Iberville was put in command of the expedition. He was the third of the eleven sons of Baron Longueil. They all held commissions from the king, and constituted one of the most illustrious of the French Canadian families. The fleet sailed from Brest, France, on the 24th of October, 1698. They came in sight of Florida on the 27th of January, 1699. They ran near the coast, and discovered that they were in the vicinity of Pensacola Bay. Here they found a colony of three hundred Spaniards. Sailing westward, they entered the mouth of the Mississippi on Quinquagesima Monday, which was the 2d of March. Iberville ascended the river far enough to assure himself of its being the Mississippi, then, descending the river, he founded a colony at Biloxi Bay. Leaving his brother, M. de Sauvole, in command of the newly erected fort, he sailed for France. Iberville returned to Biloxi on the 8th of January, and, hearing that the English were exploring the Mississippi, he took formal possession of the Mississippi valley in the name of the French king. He, also, erected a small four-gun fort on Poverty Point, 38 miles below New Orleans. The fort was constructed very rudely, and was occupied for only one year. In the year 1701 Iberville made a settlement at Mobile, and this soon became the principal French town on the gulf. The unavailing efforts of the king in the scheme of colonization induced a belief that a greater prosperity would follow under the stimulus of individual enterprise, and he determined to grant Louisiana to Monsieur Crozat, with a monopoly of its mines, supposed to be valuable in gold and silver, together with the exclusive right of all its commerce for the period of fifteen years. The patent or grant of Louis to M. Crozat is an interesting document, not only because it passed the title of the Mississippi valley into the hands of one man, but for the reason that it embraces a part of the history of the country ceded. We, therefore, quote the most valuable part of it. The instrument bears date September 12th, 1712:

“Louis (the fourteenth), King of France and Navarre; To all who shall see these presents, greeting: The care we have always had to procure the welfare and advantage of our subjects, having induced us, notwithstanding the almost continual wars which we have been engaged to support from the beginning of our reign, to seek all possible opportunities of enlarging and extending the trade of our American

colonies, we did, in the year 1683, give our orders to undertake a discovery of the countries and lands which are situated in the northern parts of America, between New France (Canada) and New Mexico. And the Sieur de La Salle, to whom we committed that enterprise, having had success enough to confirm the belief that a communication might be settled from New France to the Gulf of Mexico by means of large rivers; this obliged us, immediately after the peace of Ryewick (in 1697), to give orders for the establishment of a colony there (under Iberville in 1699), and maintaining a garrison, which has kept and preserved the possession we had taken in the year 1683, of the lands, coasts and islands which are situated in the Gulf of Mexico, between Carolina on the east, and old and New Mexico on the west. But a new war breaking out in Europe shortly after, there was no possibility till now of reaping from that new colony the advantages that might have been expected from thence; because the private men who are concerned in the sea trade were all under engagements with the other colonies, which they have been obliged to follow. And whereas, upon the information we have received concerning the disposition and situation of the said countries, known at present by the name of the province of *Louisiana*, we are of opinion that there may be established therein a considerable commerce, so much the more advantageous to our kingdom in that there has been hitherto a necessity of fetching from foreigners the greatest part of the commodities that may be brought from thence; and because in exchange thereof we need carry thither nothing but the commodities of the growth and manufacture of our own kingdom; we have resolved to grant the commerce of the country of Louisiana to the Sieur Anthony Crozat, our counsellor, secretary of the household, crown and revenue, to whom we intrust the execution of this project. We are the more readily inclined thereto because of his zeal and the singular knowledge he has acquired of maritime commerce, encourages us to hope for as good success as he has hitherto had in the divers and sundry enterprises he has gone upon, and which have procured to our kingdom great quantities of gold and silver in such conjectures as have rendered them very welcome to us. For these reasons, being desirous to show our favor to him, and to regulate the conditions upon which we mean to grant him the said commerce, after having deliberated the affair in our council, of our own certain knowledge, full power and royal authority, we by these presents, signed by our hand, have appointed and do appoint the said Sieur Crozat to carry on a trade in all the lands possessed by us, and bounded by New Mexico and by the English of Carolina, all the establishments, ports, havens, rivers, and particularly the port

and haven of Isle Dauphin, heretofore called Massacre; the river St. Louis, heretofore called Mississippi, from the edge of the sea *as far as the Illinois*,\* together with the river St. Philip, heretofore called Missouri, and St. Jerome, heretofore called the Ouabache (the Wabash), with all the countries, territories, lakes within land, and the rivers which fall directly or indirectly into that part of the river St. Louis. Our pleasure is, that all the aforesaid lands, countries, streams, rivers and islands, be and remain comprised under the name of the GOVERNMENT OF LOUISIANA, which shall be dependent upon the general government of New France, to which it is subordinate."

Crozat was permitted to search and open mines, and to pay the king one-fifth part of all the gold and silver developed. Work in developing the mines was to be begun in three years, under penalty of forfeiture. Crozat was required to send at least two vessels annually from France to sustain the colonies already established, and for the maintenance of trade.

The next year, 1713, there were, within the limits of Crozat's vast grant, not more than four hundred persons of European descent.

Crozat himself did little to increase the colony, the time of his subordinates being spent in roaming over the country in search of the precious metals. He became wearied at the end of three years spent in profitless adventures, and, in 1717, surrendered his grant back to the crown. In August of the same year the French king turned Louisiana over to the "Western Company," or the "Mississippi Company," subsequently called "The Company of the Indies," at whose head stood the famous Scotch banker, John Law. The rights ceded to Law's company were as broad as the grant to Crozat. Law was an inflationist, believing that wealth could be created without limit by the mere issuing of paper money, and his wild schemes of finance were the most ruinous that ever deluded and bankrupted a confiding people. Louisiana, with its real and undeveloped wealth a hundred times mag-

\* The expression, "as far as the Illinois," did not refer to the river of that name, but to the country generally, on *both sides* of the Mississippi, *above the mouth of the Ohio*, which, under both the French and Spanish governments was denominated "the country of the Illinois," and this designation appeared in all their records and official letters. For example, letters, deeds, and other official documents bore date, respectively, at Kaskaskia, of the Illinois; St. Louis, of the Illinois; St. Charles, of the Illinois; not to identify the village where such instruments were executed merely, but to denote the country in which these villages were situated. Therefore, the monopoly of Crozat, by the terms of his patent, extended to the utmost limit of Louisiana, northward, which, by the treaty of Utrecht in 1713, was fixed at the 49th° of latitude; *vide* Stoddard's "Sketches of Louisiana." Brackenridge's "Views of Louisiana." From the year 1700 until some time subsequent to the conquest of the country by the British, in 1763, a letter or document executed anywhere within the present limits of the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, or Missouri, would have borne the superscription of "*Les Illinois*," or "*the Illinois*."



nified, became the basis of a fictitious value, on which an enormous volume of stock, convertible into paper money, was issued. The stock rose in the market like a balloon, and chamber-maids, alike with wealthy ladies, barbers and bankers,—indeed, the whole French people,—gazing at the ascending phenomenon, grew mad with the desire for speedy wealth. The French debt was paid off; the depleted treasury filled; poor men and women were made rich in a few days by the constantly advancing value of the stocks of the “Company of the West.” Confidence in the ultimate wealth of Louisiana was all that was required, and this was given to a degree that would not now be credited as true, were not the facts beyond dispute.

After awhile the balloon exploded; people began to doubt; they realized that mere confidence was not solid value; stocks declined; they awoke to a sorrowful contemplation of their delusion and ruin. Law, from the summit of his glory as a financier, fell into ignominy, and to escape bodily harm fled the country; and Louisiana, from being the source of untold wealth, sunk into utter ruin and contempt.

It should be said to the credit of “the company” that they made some efforts toward the cultivation of the soil. The growth of tobacco, sugar, rice and indigo was encouraged. Negroes were imported to till the soil. New Orleans was laid out in 1718, and the seat of government of lower Louisiana subsequently established there. A settlement was made about Natchez. A large number of German emigrants were located on the Mississippi, from whom a portion of the Mississippi has ever since been known as the “German coast.” The French settlements at Kaskaskia and Cahokia, begun, as appears from most authentic accounts, about the year 1700,—certainly not later,—were largely increased by emigration from Canada and France. In the year 1718 the “Company of the West” erected a fortification near Kaskaskia, and named it Fort Chartes, having a *charter* from the crown so to do. It is situated in the northwest corner of Randolph county, Illinois, on the American bottom. It was garrisoned with a small number of soldiers, and was made the seat of government of “the Illinois.” Under the mild government of the “Company,” the Illinois marked a steady prosperity, and Fort Chartes became the center of business, fashion and gaiety of all “the Illinois country.” In 1756 the fort was reconstructed, this time with solid stone. Its shape was an irregular quadrangle, the exterior sides of the polygon being four hundred and ninety feet, and the walls were two feet two inches thick, pierced with port-holes for cannon. The walls of the fort were eighteen feet high, and contained within, guard houses, government house, barracks, powder house, bake house, prison and store room. A very minute description



is given of the whole structure within and without in the minutes of its surrender, October 10, 1765, by Louis St. Ange de Belrive, captain of infantry and commandant, and Joseph Le Febvre, the king's store-keeper and acting commissary of the fort, to Mr. Sterling, deputed by Mr. De Gage (Gage), governor of New York and commander of His Majesty's troops in America, to receive possession of the fort and country from the French, according to the seventeenth article of the treaty of peace, concluded on the 10th of February, 1763, between the kings of France and Great Britain.\* Fort Chartes was the strongest and most elaborately constructed of any of the French works of defense in America. Here the intendants and several commandants in charge, whose will was law, governed "the Illinois," administered justice to its inhabitants, and settled up estates of deceased persons, for nearly half a century. From this place the English commandants governed "the Illinois," some of them with great injustice and severity, from the time of its surrender, in 1765, to 1772, when a great flood inundated the American Bottom, and the Mississippi cut a new channel so near the fort that the wall and two bastions on the west side were undermined and fell into the river. The British garrison then abandoned it, and their headquarters were afterward at Kaskaskia.

Dr. Beck, while collecting material for his "Gazetteer of Illinois and Missouri," in 1820, visited the ruins of old Fort Chartes. At that time enough remained to show the size and strength of this remarkable fortification. Trees over two feet in diameter were growing within its walls. The ruin is in a dense forest, hidden in a tangle of undergrowth, furnishing a sad memento of the efforts and blasted hopes of La Belle France to colonize "*Les Illinois*."

\* The articles of surrender are given at length in the Paris Documents, vol. 10, pp. 1161 to 1166.

## CHAPTER XII.

### SURRENDER OF LOUISIANA BY THE INDIES COMPANY—EARLY ROUTES.

IN 1731 the company of the Indies surrendered to France, Louisiana, with its forts, colonies and plantations, and from this period forward to the time of the conquest by Great Britain and the Anglo-American colonies, Louisiana was governed through officers appointed by the crown.

We have shown how, when and where colonies were permanently established by the French in Canada, about Kaskaskia, and in Lower Louisiana. It is not within the scope of our inquiries to follow these settlements of the French in their subsequent development, but rather now to show how the establishments of the French along the lakes and near the gulf communicated with each other, and the routes of travel by which they were connected.

The convenient way between Quebec and the several villages in the vicinity of Kaskaskia was around the lakes and down the Illinois River, either by way of the St. Joseph River and the Kankakee portage or through Chicago Creek and the Des Plaines. The long winters and severe climate on the St. Lawrence made it desirable for many people to abandon Canada for the more genial latitudes of southern Illinois, and the still warmer regions of Louisiana, where snows were unknown and flowers grew the year round. It only required the protection of a fort or other military safeguards to induce the Canadians to change their homes from Canada to more favorable localities southward.

The most feasible route between Canada and the Lower Mississippi settlements was by the Ohio River. This communication, however, was effectually barred against the French. The Iroquois Indians, from the time of Champlain, were allies, first of the Dutch and then of the English, and the implacable enemies of the French. The upper waters of the Ohio were within the acknowledged territory of the Iroquois, whose possessions extended westward of New York and Pennsylvania well toward the Scioto. The Ohio below Pittsburgh was, also, in the debatable ground of the Miamis northward, and Chickasaws southward. These nations were warring upon each other continually, and

the country for many miles beyond either bank of the Ohio was infested with war parties of the contending tribes.\*

There were no Indian villages near the Ohio River at the period concerning which we now write. Subsequent to this the Shawnees and Delawares, previously subdued by the Iroquois, were permitted by the latter to establish their towns near the confluence of the Scioto, Muskingum and other streams. The valley of the Ohio was within the confines of the "dark and bloody ground." Were a voyager to see smoke ascending above the forest line he would know it was from the camp fire of an enemy, and to be a place of danger. It would indicate the presence of a hunting or war party. If they had been successful they would celebrate the event by the destruction of whoever would commit himself to their hands, and if unfortunate in the chase or on the war-path, disappointment would give a sharper edge to their cruelty.†

The next and more reliable route was that afforded by the Maumee and Wabash, laying within the territory of tribes friendly to the French. The importance of this route was noticed by La Salle, in his letter to Count Frontenac, in 1683, before quoted. La Salle says: "There is a river at the extremity of Lake Erie,‡ within ten leagues of the strait (Detroit River), which will very much shorten the way to the *Illinois*, it being navigable for canoes to within two leagues of *their* river."§ As early as 1699, Mons. De Iberville conducted a colony of Canadians from Quebec to Louisiana, by way of the Maumee and Wabash. "These were followed by other families, under the leadership of M. Du Tessenet. Emigrants came by land, first ascending the St. Lawrence to Lake Erie, then ascending a river emptying into that lake to the portage of *Des Miamis*; their effects being thence transported to the river Miamis, where pirogues, constructed out of a single tree, and large enough to contain thirty persons, were built, with which the voyage down the Mississippi was prosecuted."|| This memoir corresponds remarkably well with the claim of Little Turtle, in his speech to Gen. Wayne, concerning the antiquity of the title, in his tribe, to the portage of the Wabash at Fort Wayne. It also illustrates the fact that among the first French settlers in lower Louisiana were

\* A Miami chief said that his nation had no tradition of "a time when they were not at war with the Chickasaws."

† General William H. Harrison's Address before the Historical Society of Cincinnati.

‡ The Maumee.

§ Meaning the Wabash.

|| Extract taken from a memoir, showing that the first establishments in Louisiana were at Mobile, etc., the original manuscript being among the archives in the department "De la Marine et Des Colonies," in Paris, France.

those who found their way thither through the "glorious gate," belonging to the Miamis, connecting the Maumee and Wabash.

Originally, the Maumee was known to the French as the "Miami," "Onmiami," or the "River of the Miamis," from the fact that bands of this tribe of Indians had villages upon its banks. It was also called "Ottawa," or "Tawwa," which is a contraction of the word Ottawa, as families of this tribe "resided on this river from time immemorial." The Shawnee Indian name is "Ottawa-sepe," that is "Ottawa River." By the Hurons, or Wyandots, it was called "Cagh-a-ren-du-te," the "River of the Standing Rock."\* Lewis Evans, whose map was published in 1755, and which is, perhaps, the first English map issued of the territory lying north and west of the Ohio River, lays down the Miami as "Mine-a-mi," a way the Pennsylvania-Indian traders had of pronouncing the word Miami. In 1703, Mons. Cadillac, the French commandant at Detroit, in his application for a grant of land six leagues in breadth on either side of the Maumee, upon which he proposed to propagate silk-worms, refers to the river as "Grand River"† As early as 1718 it is mentioned as the "Miamis River,"‡ and it bore this name more generally than that of any other from 1718 to a period subsequent to the War of 1812. Capt. Robert M'Afee, who was in the various campaigns up and down the Maumee during the War of 1812, and whose history of this war, published at Lexington, Ky., in 1816, gives the most authentic account of the military movements in this quarter, makes frequent mention of the river by the name of "Miami," occasionally designating it as the "Miami of the Lake."

Gen. Joseph Harmar, in his report of the military expedition conducted by him to Fort Wayne, in October, 1790, calls the Miami the "Omee." He says: "As there are three Miamis in the northwestern territory, all bearing the name of Miami, I shall in the future, for distinction's sake, when speaking of the Miami of the Lake, call it the 'Omee,' and its towns the Omee Towns. By this name they are best known on the frontier. It is only, however, one of the many corruptions or contractions universally used among the French-Americans in pronouncing Indian names. 'Au-Mi,' for instance, is the contraction for 'An Miami.'"§

The habit of the "Coureur de Bois" and others using the mongrel language of the border Canadians, as well, also, the custom prevailing

\* "Account of the Present State of Indian Tribes, etc., Inhabiting Ohio." By John Johnson, Indian Agent, June 17, 1819. Published in vol. 1 of *Archæologia Americana*.

† Sheldon's History of Michigan, p. 108.

‡ Paris Documents, vol. 9, p. 886 and 891.

§ Gen. Harmar's official letter to the Secretary of War, under date of November 23, 1790, published in the American State Papers.



among this class of persons in giving nicknames to rivers and localities, has involved other observers besides Gen. Harmar in the same perplexity. Thomas Hutchins, the American geographer, and Capt. Harry Gordon visited Kaskaskia and the adjacent territory subsequent to the conquest of the northwest territory from the French, and became hopelessly entangled in the contractions and epithets applied to the surrounding villages on both sides of the Mississippi. Kaskaskia was abbreviated to "*Au-kas*," and St. Louis nicknamed "Pain Court" — *Short Bread*; Carondelet was called "*Vide Pouché*" — *Empty Pocket*; Ste. Genevieve was called "Missier" — *Misery*. The Kaskaskia, after being shortened to Au-kaus, pronounced "Okau," has been further corrupted to Okaw, and at this day we have the singular contradiction of the ancient Kaskaskia being called Kaskaskia near its mouth and "Okaw" at its source.

The Miamis, or bands of their tribe, had villages in order of time; first on the St. Joseph of Lake Michigan, then upon the Maumee; after this, 1750, they, with factions of other tribes who had become disaffected toward the French, established a mixed village upon the stream now known as the Great Miami, which empties into the Ohio, and in this way the name of Miami has been transferred, successively, from the St. Joseph to the Miami, and from the latter to the present Miami, with which it has become permanently identified.\* The Miamis were, also, called the "Mau-meets,"—this manner of spelling growing out of one of the several methods of pronouncing the word Miami—and it is doubtless from this source that the name of Maumee is derived †

In this connection we may note the fact that the St. Marys and the Au-glaize were named by the Shawnee Indians, as follows: The first was called by this tribe, who had several villages upon its banks, the "Co-kothé-ke-sepe," Kettle River; and the Au-glaize "Cow-then-é-ke-sepe," or Fallen Timber River. These aboriginal names are given by Mr. John Johnson, in his published account of the Indian tribes before referred to.‡

We will now give a derivation of the name of the Wabash, which has been the result of an examination of a number of authorities. Early French writers have spelled the word in various ways, each endeavoring, with more or less success, to represent the name as the sev-

\* The aboriginal name of the Great Miami was "Assin-erient," or Rocky River, from the word *Assin*, or *Ussin*, the Algonquin appellation for stone or stony. Lewis Evan's map of 1755.

† In an official letter of Gen. Harrison to the Secretary of War, dated March 22, 1814, the name "Miamis" and "*Maumees*" are given as synonymous terms, referring to the same tribe.

‡ Mr. Johnson had charge of the Indian affairs in Ohio for many years, and was especially acquainted with the Shawnees and their language.

eral Algonquin tribes pronounced it. First, we have Father Marquette's orthography, "Oua-bous-kigou;" and by later French authorities it is spelled "Abache," "Ouabache," "Oubashe," "Oubache," "Oubash," "Oubask," "Oubache," "Wabascon," "Wabache," and "Waubache." It should be borne in mind that the French alphabet does not contain the letter *W*, and that the diphthong "*ou*" with the French has nearly the same sound as the letter *W* of the English alphabet. The Jesuits sometimes used a character much like the figure 8, which is a Greek contraction formulated by them, to represent a peculiar guttural sound among the Indians, and which we often, though imperfectly, represent by the letter *W*, or *Wau*.\*

That Wabash is an Indian name, and was early applied to the stream that now bears this name, is clearly established by Father Gravier. This missionary descended the Mississippi in the year 1700, and speaking of the Ohio and its tributaries, says: "Three branches are assigned to it, one that comes from the northwest (the Wabash), passing behind the country of the Oumiamis, called the St. Joseph,† which the Indians properly call the *Ouabachei*; the second comes from the Iroquois (whose country included the head-waters of the Ohio), and is called the Ohio; and the third, which comes from the Chaouanona‡ (Shawnees). And all of them uniting to empty into the Mississippi, it is commonly called Ouabachi."§

In the variety of manner in which Wabash is spelled in the examples given above, we clearly trace the *Waw-bish-kaw*, of the Ojibeways; the *Wabisca* (pronounced Wa-bis-sa) of the modern Algonquin; *Wau-bish* of the Menominees, and *Wa-bi* of the ancient Algonquins, words which with all these kindred tongues mean *White*.||

Therefore the aboriginal of Wabash (Sepe) should be rendered *White River*. This theory is supported by Lewis Evans, who for many years was a trader among the Indians, inhabiting the country drained by the Wabash and its tributary waters. The extensive knowledge which he acquired in his travels westward of the Alleghanies resulted

\*Shea's Discovery and Exploration of the Mississippi, p. 41, foot-note. For example, we find in the Journal of Marquette, *Sabskig8*, for Wabash. The same manner of spelling is also observed in names, as written by other missionaries, where they design to represent the sound of the French "*ou*," or the English *W*.

†Probably a mistake of the copyist, and which should be the St. Jerome, a name given by the French to the Wabash, as we have seen in the extracts taken from Crozat's grant. Dr. Shea has pointed out numerous mistakes made by the copyist of the manuscripts from which the "Voyages Up and Down the Mississippi" are composed.

‡The Tennessee.

§Father Gravier's Journal in Dr. Shea's Voyages Up and Down the Mississippi, pp. 120, 121.

||The several aboriginal names for white, which we have given above, are taken from the vocabularies of Mackenzie, Dr. Ewin James and Albert Gallatin, which are regarded as standard authorities.

in his publishing, in 1755, a map, accompanied with an extended description of the territory it embraced. In describing the Wabash, Mr. Evans calls it by the name the Iroquois Indians had given it, viz: the "Quia-agh-tena," and says "it is called by the French Ouabach, though that is truly the name of its *southeastern* branch." Why the White River, of Indiana, which is the principal southeastern branch of the Wabash, should have been invested with the English meaning of the word, and the aboriginal name should have been retained by the river to which it has always properly belonged, is easily explained, when we consider the ignorance and carelessness of many of the early travelers, whose writings, coming down to us, have tended to confuse rather than aid the investigations of the modern historian. The Ohio River *below* the confluence of the Wabash is designated as the Wabash by a majority of the early French writers, and so laid down on many of the contemporaneous maps. This was, probably, due to the fact that the Wabash was known and used before the Ohio had been explored to its mouth. So fixed has become the habit of calling the united waters of these two streams Wabash, from their union continuously to their discharge into the Mississippi, that the custom prevailed long after a better knowledge of the geography of the country suggested the propriety of its abandonment. Even after the French of Canada accepted the change, and treated the Ohio as the main river and the Wabash as the tributary, the French of Louisiana adhered to the old name.

We quote from M. Le Page Du Pratz' History of Louisiana: \* "Let us now repossess the Mississippi in order to resume a description of the lands to the east, which we quit at the river *Wabash*. This river is distant from the sea four hundred and sixty leagues; it is reckoned to have four hundred leagues in length from its source to its confluence with the Mississippi. It is called Wabash, though, according to the usual method, it ought to be called the Ohio, or Beautiful River, † seeing the Ohio was known under that name before its confluence was known; and as the Ohio takes its rise at a greater distance off than the three others which mix together before they empty themselves into the Mississippi, this should make the others lose their

\* The author was for sixteen years a planter of Louisiana, having gone thither from France soon after the Company of the West or Indes restored the country to the crown. He was a gentleman of superior attainments, and soon acquired a thorough knowledge of the French possessions in America. He returned to France, and in 1758 published his "History of Louisiana," with maps, which, in 1763, was translated into English. These volumes are largely devoted to the experience of the author in the cultivation of rice, indigo, sugar and other products congenial to the climate and soil of Louisiana, and to quite an extended topographical description of the whole Mississippi Valley.

† The Iroquois' name for the Ohio was "*O-io*," meaning beautiful, and the French retained the signification in the name of "*La Belle Rivière*," by which the Ohio was known to them.



names; but *custom has prevailed* in this respect. The first known to us which falls into the Ohio is that of the *Miamis* (Wabash), which takes its rise toward Lake Erie. It is by this river of the Miamis that the Canadians come to Louisiana. For this purpose they embark on the River St. Lawrence, go up this river, pass the cataracts quite to the bottom of Lake Erie, where they find a small river, on which they also go up to a place called the *carriage of the Miamis*, because that people come and take their effects and carry them on their backs for two leagues from thence to the banks of the river of their name which I just said empties itself into the Ohio. From thence the Canadians go down that river, enter the Wabash, and at last the Mississippi, which brings them to New Orleans, the capital of Louisiana. They reckon eighteen hundred leagues from the capital of Canada to that of Louisiana, on account of the great turns and windings they are obliged to take. The river of the Miamis is thus the first to the north which falls into the Ohio, then that of the *Chaouanons* to the south, and lastly, that of the Cherokee, *all which together* empty themselves into the Mississippi. *This* is what we (in Louisiana) call the Wabash, and what in Canada and New England is called the Ohio.\*

A failure to recognize the fact that the Ohio below the mouth of the Wabash was, for a period of over half a century, known to the French as the Wabash, has led not a few later writers to erroneously locate ancient French forts and missionary stations upon the banks of the Wabash, which were in reality situated many miles below, on the Ohio.†

\*On the map prefixed to Du Pratz' history, the Ohio from the Mississippi up to the confluence of the Wabash is called the "Wabash"; above this the Ohio is called Ohio, and the Wabash is called "The River of the Miamis," with villages of that tribe noted near its source. The Maumee is called the "River of the Carrying Place." The Upper Mississippi, the Illinois River and the lakes are also laid down, and, altogether, the map is quite accurate.

†A noticeable instance of such a mistake will be found relative to the city of Vincennes. On the authority of La Harpe, and the later historian Charlevoix, the French in the year 1700, established a trading post near the mouth of the Ohio, on the site of the more modern Fort Massac, in Massac county, Ill., for the purpose of securing buffalo hides. The neighboring Mascotins, as was customary with the Indians, soon gathered about for the purpose of barter. Their numbers, as well as the expressed wish of the French traders, induced Father Merment to visit the place and engage in mission work. At the end of four or five years, in 1705, the establishment was broken up on account of a quarrel of the Indians among themselves, and which so threatened the lives of the Frenchmen that the latter fled, leaving behind their effects and 13,000 buffalo hides which they had collected. Some years later Father Marest, writing from Kaskaskia, in his letter before referred to, relates the failure of Father Merment to convert the Indians at *this* "post on the Wabash"; and on the authority of this letter alone, and although Father Marest only followed the prevailing style in calling the lower Ohio the Wabash, some writers, the late Judge John Law being the first, have contended that this post was on the Wabash and at Vincennes. Charlevoix says "it was at the mouth of the Wabash which discharges itself into the Mississippi." La Harpe, and also Le Suere, whose personal knowledge of the post was contemporaneous with its existence, definitely fix its position near the mouth of the Ohio. The latter gives the date of its beginning, and the former narrates an account of its trade and final abandonment. In this way an antiquity has been claimed for Vincennes to which it is not historically entitled.



We now give a description of the Maumee and Wabash, the location of the several Indian villages, and the manners of their inhabitants, taken from a memoir prepared in 1718 by a French officer in Canada, and sent to the minister at Paris.\*

"I return to the Miamis River. Its entrance from Lake Erie is very wide, and its banks on both sides, for a distance of ten leagues up, are nothing but continued swamps, abounding at all times, especially in the spring, with game without end, swans, geese, ducks, cranes, etc., which drive sleep away by the noise of their cries. This river is sixty leagues in length, very embarrassing in summer in consequence of the lowness of the water. Thirty leagues up the river is a place called *La Glaise*,† where buffalo are always to be found; they eat the clay and wallow in it. The Miamis are sixty leagues from Lake Erie, and number four hundred, all well formed men, and well tattooed;‡ the women are numerous. They are hard working, and raise a species of maize unlike that of our Indians at Detroit. It is white, of the same size as the other, the skin much finer, and the meal much whiter. This nation is clad in deer skin, and when a woman goes with another man her husband cuts off her nose and does not see her any more. They have plays and dances, wherefore they have more occupation. The women are well clothed; but the men use scarcely any covering, and are tattooed all over the body.

"From this Miami village there is a *portage* of three leagues to a little and very narrow stream,§ that falls, after a course of twenty leagues, into the Ohio or Beautiful River, which discharges into the Ouabache, a fine river that falls into the Mississippi forty leagues from the Cascachias. Into the Ouabache falls also the Casquinampo,|| which communicates with Carolina; but this is far off, and is always up stream.

"The River Ouabache is the one on which the Ouyatanons¶ are settled.

"They consist of five villages, which are contiguous the one to the other. One is called Oujatanon, the other Peanguichias,\*\* and another

\*The document is quite lengthy, covering all the principal places and Indian tribes east of the Mississippi, and showing the compiler possessed a very thorough acquaintance with the whole subject. It is given entire in the Paris Documents, vol. 9; that relating to the Maumee and Wabash on pages 886 to 891.

†Defiance, Ohio.

‡These villages were near the confluence of the St. Mary's and St. Joseph, and this is the first account we have of the present site of Fort Wayne.

§ Little River, that empties into the Wabash just below Huntington.

|| The Tennessee River.

¶The "Weas," whose principal villages were near the mouth of Eel River, near Logansport, and on the Wea prairie, between Attica and La Fayette.

\*\*The ancient Piankashaw town was on the Vermilion of the Wabash, and the Miami name of the Vermilion was Piankashaw.

Petitscotias, and a fourth Le Gros. The name of the last I do not recollect, but they are all Oujatanons, having the same language as the Miamis, whose brothers they are, and properly all Miamis, having the same customs and dress.\* The men are very numerous; fully a thousand or twelve hundred.

"They have a custom different from all other nations, which is to keep their fort extremely clean, not allowing a blade of grass to remain within it. The whole of the fort is sanded like the Tuilleries. The village is situated on a high hill, and they have over two leagues of improvement where they raise their Indian corn, pumpkins and melons. From the summit of this elevation nothing is visible to the eye but prairies full of buffaloes. Their play and dancing are incessant.†

"All of these tribes use a vast quantity of vermilion. The women wear clothing, the men very little. The River Ohio, or Beautiful river, is the route which the Iroquois take. It would be of importance that they should not have such intercourse, as it is very dangerous. Attention has been called to this matter long since, but no notice has been taken of it."

\*The "Le Gros," that is, The Great (village), was probably "Chip-pe-co-ke," or the town of "Brush-wood," the name of the old village at Vincennes, which was the principal city of the Piankashaws.

†The village here described is Ouatanon, which was situated a few miles below La Fayette, near which, though on the opposite or north bank of the Wabash, the Stockade Fort of "Ouatanon" was established by the French.

## CHAPTER XIII.

### ABORIGINAL INHABITANTS—THE SEVERAL ILLINOIS TRIBES.

THE Indians who lived in and claimed the territory to which our attention is directed were the several tribes of the Illinois and Miami confederacies,—the Pottawatomies, the Kickapoos and scattered bands of Shawnees and Delawares. Their title to the soil had to be extinguished by conquest or treatise of purchase before the country could be settled by a higher civilization; for the habits of the two races, red and white, were so radically different that there could be no fusion, and they could not, or rather did not, live either happily or at peace together.

We proceed to treat of these several tribes, observing the order in which their names have been mentioned; and we do so in this connection for the reason that it will aid toward a more ready understanding of the subjects which are to follow.

The Illinois were a subdivision of the great Algonquin family. Their language and manners differed somewhat from other surrounding tribes, and resembled most the Miamis, with whom they originally bore a very close affinity. Before Joliet and Marquette's voyage to the Mississippi, all of the Indians who came from the south to the mission at La Pointe, on Lake Superior, for the purposes of barter, were by the French called Illinois, for the reason that the *first* Indians who came to La Pointe from the south "*called themselves Illinois.*" \*

In the Jesuit Relations the name Illinois appears as "Illi-mouek," "Illinoues," "Ill-i-ne-wek," "Allin-i-wek" and "Lin-i-wek." By Father Marquette it is "Ilinois," and Hennepin has it the same as it is at the present day. The *ois* was pronounced like our *way*, so that *ouai*, *ois*, *wek* and *ouek* were almost identical in pronunciation.† "Willinis" is Lewis Evans' orthography. Major Thomas Forsyth, who for many years was a trader and Indian agent in the territory, and subsequently the state, of Illinois, says the Confederation of Illinois

\* As we have given the name of Ottawas to all the savages of these countries, although of different nations, because the first who have appeared among the French have been Ottawas; so also it is with the name of the Illinois, very numerous, and dwelling toward the south, because the first who have come to the "point of the Holy Ghost for commerce called themselves Illinois."—Father Claude Dablon, in the Jesuit Relations for 1670, 1671.

† Note by Dr. Shea in the article entitled "The Indian Tribes of Wisconsin," furnished by him for the Historical Society of Wisconsin, and published in Vol. III of their collections, p. 128.

“called themselves *Linneway*,”—which is almost identical with the *Lin-i-wek* of the Jesuits, having a regard for its proper pronunciation,—“and that by others they were called Minneway, signifying men,” and that their confederacy embraced the combined Illinois and Miami tribes; “that all these different bands of the Minneway nation spoke the language of the present Miamis, and the whole considered themselves as one and the same people, yet from their local situation, and having no standard to go by, their language became broken up into different dialects.”\* They were by the Iroquois called “*Chick-taghicks*.”

Many theories have been advanced and much fine speculation indulged in concerning the origin and meaning of the word Illinois. We have seen that the Illinois first made themselves known to the French by that name, and we have never had a better signification of the name than that which the Illinois themselves gave to Fathers Marquette and Hennepin. The former, in his narrative journal, observes: “To say Illinois is, in their language, to say ‘the men,’ as if other Indians, compared to them, were mere beasts.”† “The word Illinois signifies a man of full age in the vigor of his strength. This word Illinois comes, as it has already been observed, from *Illini*, which in the language of that nation signifies a perfect and accomplished man.”‡

Subsequently the name Illini, Linneway, Willinis or Illinois, with more propriety became limited to a confederacy, at first composed of four subdivisions, known as the Kaskaskias, Cahokias, Tamaroas and Peorias. Not many years before the discovery of the Mississippi by the French, a foreign tribe, the Metchigamis, nearly destroyed by wars with the Sacs to the north and the Chickasaws to the south, to save themselves from annihilation appealed to the Kaskaskias for admission into their confederacy.§ The request was granted, and the Metchigamis left their homes on the Osage river and established their villages on the St. Francis, within the limits of the present State of Missouri and below the mouth of the Kaskaskia.

The subdivision of the Illinois proper into *cantons*, as the French writers denominate the families or villages of a nation, like that of other tribes was never very distinct. There were no villages exclusively for a separate branch of the tribe. Owing to intermarriage, adoption and other processes familiar to modern civilization, the sub-

\* Life of Black-Hawk, by Benjamin Drake, seventh edition, pp. 16 and 17.

† Shea's Discovery and Exploration of the Mississippi Valley, p. 25.

‡ Hennepin's Discovery of America, pp. 35 and 119, London edition, 1698.

§ Charlevoix's "Narrative Journal," Vol. II, p. 228. Also note of B. F. French, p. 61 of Vol. III, First Series of Historical Collections of Louisiana.



tribal distinctions were not well preserved; and when Charlevoix, that acute observer, in 1721 visited these several Illinois villages near Kaskaskia, their inhabitants were so mixed together and confounded that it was almost impossible to distinguish the different branches of the tribe from each other.\*

The first accounts we have of the Illinois are given by the Jesuit missionaries. In the "Relations" for the year 1655 we find that the Lin-i-ouek are neighbors of the Winnebagoes; again in the "Relations" for the next year, "that the Illinois nation dwell more than sixty leagues from here, † and beyond a great river, ‡ which as near as can be conjectured flows into the sea toward Virginia. These people are warlike. They use the bow, rarely the gun, and never the canoe.

When Joliet and Marquette were descending the Mississippi, they found villages of the Illinois on the Des Moines river, and on their return they passed through larger villages of the same nation situated on the Illinois river, near Peoria and higher up the stream.

While the Illinois were nomads, though not to the extent of many other tribes, they had villages of a somewhat permanent character, and when they moved after game they went in a body. It would seem from the most authentic accounts that their favorite abiding places were on the Illinois river, from the Des Plaines down to its confluence with the Mississippi, and on the Mississippi from the Kaskaskia to the mouth of the Ohio. This beautiful region abounded in game; its rivers were well stocked with fish, and were frequented by myriads of wild fowls. The climate was mild. The soil was fertile. By the mere turning of the sod, the lands in the rich river bottoms yielded bountiful crops of Indian corn, melons and squashes.

In disposition and morals the Illinois were not to be very highly commended. Father Charlevoix, speaking of them as they were in 1700, says: "Missionaries have for some years directed quite a flourishing church among the Illinois, and they have ever since continued to instruct that nation, in whom christianity had already produced a change such as she alone can produce in morals and disposition. Before the arrival of the missionaries, there were perhaps no Indians in any part of Canada with fewer good qualities and more vices. They have

\* "These tribes are at present very much confounded, and are become very inconsiderable. There remains only a very small number of Kaskaskias, and the two villages of that name are almost entirely composed of Tamaroas and *Metchiganis*, a foreign nation adopted by the Kaskaskias, and originally settled on a small river you meet with going down the Mississippi."—Charlevoix' "Narrative Journal," Letter XXVIII. dated Kaskaskia, October 20, 1721; p. 228, Vol. II.

† The letter is sent from the Mission of the Holy Ghost, at La Pointe.

‡ The Mississippi.

always been mild and docile enough, but they were cowardly, treacherous, fickle, deceitful, thievish, brutal, destitute of faith or honor, selfish, addicted to gluttony and the most monstrous lusts, almost unknown to the Canada tribes, who accordingly despised them heartily, but the Illinois were not a whit less haughty or self-complacent on that account.

“Such allies could bring no great honor or assistance to the French; yet we never had any more faithful, and, if we except the Abénaqui tribes, they are the only tribe who never sought peace with their enemies to our prejudice. They did, indeed, see the necessity of our aid to defend themselves against several nations who seemed to have sworn their ruin, and especially against the Iroquois and Foxes, who, by constant harrassing, have somewhat trained them to war, the former taking home from their expeditions the vices of that corrupt nation.” \*

Father Charlevoix' comments upon the Illinois confirm the statements of Hennepin, who says: “They are lazy vagabonds, timorous, pettish thieves, and so fond of their liberty that they have no great respect for their chiefs.” †

Their cabins were constructed of mats, made out of flags, spread over a frame of poles driven into the ground in a circular form and drawn together at the top.

“Their villages,” says Father Hennepin, ‡ “are open, not enclosed with palisades because they had no courage to defend them; they would flee as they heard their enemies approaching.” Before their acquaintance with the French they had no knowledge of iron and fire-arms. Their two principal weapons were the bow and arrow and the club. Their arrows were pointed with stone, and their tomahawks were made out of stag's horns, cut in the shape of a cutlass and terminating in a large ball. In the use of the bow and arrow, all writers agree, that the Illinois excelled all neighboring tribes. For protection against the missiles of an enemy they used bucklers composed of buffalo hides stretched over a wooden frame.

In form they were tall and lithe. They were noted for their swiftness of foot. They wore moccasins prepared from buffalo hides; and, in summer, this generally completed their dress. Sometimes they wore a small covering, extending from the waist to the knees. The rest of the body was entirely nude.

The women, beside cultivating the soil, did all of the household drudgery, carried the game and made the clothes. The garments

\* Charlevoix's “History of New France,” vol. 5, page 130.

† Hennepin, page 132, London edition, 1698.

‡ Page 132.

were prepared from buffalo hides, and from the soft wool that grew upon these animals. Both the wool and hides were dyed with brilliant colors, black, yellow or vermilion. In this kind of work the Illinois women were greatly in advance of other tribes. Articles of dress were sewed together with thread made from the nerves and tendons of deer, prepared by exposure to the sun twice in every twenty-four hours. After which the nerves and tendons were beaten so that their fibers would separate into a fine white thread. The clothing of the women was something like the loose wrappers worn by ladies of the present day. Beneath the wrapper were petticoats, for warmth in winter. With a fondness for finery that characterizes the feminine sex the world over, the Illinois women wore head-dresses, contrived more for ornament than for use. The feet were covered with moccasins, and leggings decorated with quills of the porcupine stained in colors of brilliant contrasts. Ornaments, fashioned out of clam shells and other hard substances, were worn about the neck, wrists and ankles; these, with the face, hands and neck daubed with pigments, completed the toilet of the highly fashionable Illinois belle.

Their food consisted of the scanty products of their fields, and principally of game and fish, of which, as previously stated, there was in their country a great abundance. Father Allouez, who visited them in 1673, stated that they had fourteen varieties of herbs and forty-two varieties of fruits which they use for food. Their plates and other dishes were made of wood, and their spoons were constructed out of buffalo bones. The dishes for boiling food were earthen, *sometimes glazed*.\*

From all accounts, it seems that the Illinois claimed an extensive tract of country, bounded on the east by the ridge that divides the waters flowing into the Illinois from the streams that drain into the Wabash above the head waters of Saline creek, and as high up the Illinois as the Des Plaines, extending westward of the Mississippi, and reaching northward to the debatable ground between the Illinois, Chippeways, Winnebagoes, Sacs and Foxes. Their favorite and most populous cities were on the Illinois river, near Starved Rock, and

\*The account we have given of the manners, habits and customs of the Illinois is compiled from the following authorities: La Hontan, Charlevoix, Hennepin, Tonti, Marquette, Joutel, the missionaries Marest, Rasles and Allouez. Besides, the historic letter of Marest, found in Kip's Jesuit Missions, is another from this distinguished priest, written from Kaskaskia to M. Bienville, and incorporated in Penicaut's Annals of Louisiana, a translation of which is contained in the Historical Collections of Louisiana and Florida, by B. F. French. In this letter of Father Marest, dated in 1711, is a very fine description of the customs of the Illinois Indians, and their prosperous condition at Kaskaskia and adjacent villages.



below as far as Peoria. The missionary station founded by Father Marquette was, in all probability, near the latter place.

Prior to the year 1700, Father Marest had charge of a mission at the *neck, strait* or *narrows* of Peoria lake. In Peoria lake, above Peoria, is a contracted channel, and this is evidently referred to by Father Gravier in his "Narrative Journal" where he states: "I arrived too late at the Illinois du Detroit, of whom Father Marest has charge, to prevent the transmigration of the village of the Kaskaskias, which was too precipitately made on vague news of the establishment on the Mississippi. I do not believe that the Kaskaskias would have thus separated from the Peouaroua and other Illinois *du Detroit*. At all events, I came soon enough to unite minds a little, and to prevent the insult which the Peouaroua and the Mouin-gouena were bent on offering to the Kaskaskias and French as they embarked. I spoke to all the chiefs in full council, and as they continued to preserve some respect and good will for me, we separated very peaceably. But I argue no good from this separation, which I have always hindered, seeing too clearly the evil results. God grant that the road from Chikagoua to this strait" (au Detroit) "be not closed, and the whole Illinois mission suffer greatly. I avow to you, Reverend Father, that it rends my heart to see my old flock thus divided and dispersed, and I shall never see it, after leaving it, without having some new cause of affliction. The Peouaroua, whom I left without a missionary (since Father Marest has followed the Kaskaskias), have promised me that they would preserve the church, and that they would await my return from the Mississippi, where I told them I went only to assure myself of the truth of all that was said about it." \*

The area of the original country of the Illinois was reduced by continuous wars with their neighbors. The Sioux forced them eastward; the Sac and Fox, and other enemies, encroached upon them from the north; while war parties of the foreign Iroquois, from the east, rapidly decimated their numbers. These unhappy influences were doing

\* Father Gravier's Journal in Shea's Early Voyages Up and Down the Mississippi, pp. 116 and 117. Dr. Shea, in a foot note, p. 116, says: "This designation (*Illinois Du Detroit*) does not appear elsewhere, and I cannot discover what *strait* is referred to. It evidently includes the Peorias."

Dr. Shea's conjecture is very nearly correct. The narrows in Peoria lake retained the appellation of Little Detroit, a name handed down from the French-Canadians. Dr. Lewis Beck, in his "Gazetteer of Illinois and Missouri," p. 124, speaks of "*Little Detroit*, an Indian village situated on the east bank of lake Peoria, six miles above Ft. Clark." On the map prefixed to the Gazetteer prepared in 1820 the contraction of the lake is shown and designated as "*Little Detroit*."

We have seen from extracts from Father Marquette's Journal, quoted on a preceding page, that it was the Kaskaskias at whose village this distinguished missionary promised to return and to establish a mission, and that with the ebbing out of his life he fulfilled his engagement. From Father Gravier's Journal, just quoted, it is appar-



their fatal work, and the Illinois confederacy was in a stage of decline when they first came in contact with the French. Their afflictions made them accessible to the voice of the missionary, and in their weakness they hailed with delight the coming of the Frenchman with his promises of protection, which were assured by guns and powder. The misfortunes of the Illinois drew them so kindly to the priests, the *coureurs des Bois* and soldiers, that the friendship between the two races never abated; and when in the order of events the sons of France had departed from the Illinois, their love for the departed Gaul was inculcated into the minds of their children.

The erection of Fort St. Louis on the Illinois, St. Joseph on the stream of that name, and the establishment at Detroit, for a while stayed the calamity that was to befall the Illinois. Frequent allusion has been made to the part the Iroquois took in the destruction of this powerful confederacy. For the gratification of the reader we give a condensed account of some of these Iroquois campaigns in the Illinois country. The extracts we take are from a memoir on the western Indians, by M. Du Chesneau,\* dated at Quebec, September 13, 1681: "To convey a correct idea of the present state of all those Indian nations it is necessary to explain the cause of the cruel war waged by the Iroquois for these three years past against the Illinois. The former were great warriors, cannot remain idle, and pretend to subject all other nations to themselves, and never want a pretext for commencing hostilities. The following was their assumed excuse for the present war: Going, about twenty years ago, to attack the Outagamis (Foxes), they met the Illinois and killed a considerable number of them. This continued during the succeeding years, and finally, having destroyed a great many, they forced them to abandon their country and seek refuge in very distant parts. The Iroquois having got quit of the Illinois, took no more trouble with them, and went to war against another nation called the Andostagues.† Pending this war the Illinois returned to their country, and the Iroquois complained that they had

ent that the mission had for some years been in successful operation at the combined village of the Kaskaskias, Peorias and Mouin-gouena, situated at the Du Detroit of the Illinois; and also that the Kaskaskias, hearing that the French were about to form establishments on the lower Mississippi, in company with the French inhabitants of their ancient village, were in the act of going down the Mississippi at the time of Gravier's arrival, in September, 1700. All these facts taken together would seem to definitely locate the Mission of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the narrows, six miles above the present city of Peoria, which is upon the site of old Fort Clark, and probably, from the topography of the locality, upon the east bank of the strait. In conclusion, we may add that the Kaskaskias were induced to halt in their journey southward upon the river, which has ever since borne their name; and the mission, transferred from the old Kaskaskias, above Peoria, retained the name of "The Immaculate Conception," etc.

\* Paris Documents, vol. 9, pp. 161 to 166.

† The Eries, or Cats, were entirely destroyed by the Iroquois.

killed forty of their people who were on their way to hunt beaver in the Illinois country. To obtain satisfaction, the Iroquois resolved to make war upon them. Their true motive, however, was to gratify the English at Manatte\* and Orange,† of whom they are too near neighbors, and who, by means of presents, engaged the Iroquois in this expedition, the object of which was to force the Illinois to bring their beaver to them, so that they may go and trade it afterwards to the English; also, to intimidate the other Indians, and constrain them to do the same thing.

“The improper conduct of *Sieur de la Salle*,‡ governor of Fort Frontenac, has contributed considerably to cause the latter to adopt this proceeding; for after he had obtained permission to discover the Great River Mississippi, and had, as he alleged, the grant of the Illinois, he no longer observed any terms with the Iroquois. He ill-treated them, and avowed that he would convey arms and ammunition to the Illinois, and would die assisting them.

“The Iroquois dispatched in the month of April of last year, 1680, an army, consisting of between five and six hundred men, who approached an Illinois village where *Sieur Tonty*, one of *Sieur de la Salle*’s men happened to be with some Frenchmen and two Recollect fathers, whom the Iroquois left unharmed. One of these, a most holy man,§ has since been killed by the Indians. But they would listen to no terms of peace proposed to them by *Sieur de Tonty*, who was slightly wounded at the beginning of the attack; the Illinois having fled a hundred leagues thence, were pursued by the Iroquois, who killed and captured as many as twelve hundred of them, including women and children, having lost only thirty men.

“The victory achieved by the Iroquois rendered them so insolent that they have continued ever since that time to send out divers war parties. The success of these is not yet known, but it is not doubted that they have been successful, because those tribes are very warlike and the Illinois are but indifferently so. Indeed, there is no doubt, and it is the universal opinion, that if the Iroquois are allowed to proceed they will subdue the Illinois, and in a short time render themselves masters of all the Outawa tribes and divert the trade to the English, so that it is absolutely essential to make them our friends or to destroy them.”

\* New York.

† Albany, New York.

‡ It must be remembered that *La Salle* was not exempt from the jealousy and envy which is inspired in souls of little men toward those engaged in great undertakings; and we see this spirit manifested here. *La Salle* could not have done otherwise than supply fire-arms to the Illinois, who were his friends and the owners of the country, the trade of which he had opened up at great hardship and expense to himself.

§ Gabriel Ribourde.

The Iroquois were not always successful in their western forays. Tradition records two instances in which they were sadly discomfited. The first was an encounter with the Sioux, on an island in the Mississippi, at the mouth of the Des Moines. The tradition of this engagement is preserved in the curious volumes of La Hontan, and is as follows: "March 2nd, 1689, I arrived in the Mississippi. To save the labor of rowing we left our boats to the current, and arrived on the tenth in the island of *Rencontres*, which took its name from the defeat of four hundred Iroquois accomplished there by three hundred Nadouessis (Sioux). The story of the encounter is briefly this: A party of four hundred Iroquois having a mind to surprise a certain people in the neighborhood of the Otentas (of whom more anon), marched to the country of the Illinois, where they built canoes and were furnished with provisions. After that they embarked upon the river Mississippi, and were discovered by another little fleet that was sailing down the other side of the same river. The Iroquois crossed over immediately to that island which is since called *Aux Rencontres*. The Nadouessis, *i. e.*, the other little fleet, being suspicious of some ill design, without knowing what people they were (for they had no knowledge of the *Iroquois* but by hear-say) — upon this suspicion, I say, they tugged hard to come up with them. The two armies posted themselves upon the point of the island, where the two crosses are put down in the map,\* and as soon as the *Nadouessis* came in sight, the Iroquois cried out in the *Illinese* language: '*Who are ye?*' To which the Nadouessis answered, '*Somebody*'; and putting the same question to the Iroquois, received the same answer. Then the Iroquois put this question to 'em: '*Where are you going?*' '*To hunt buffalo,*' answered the *Nadouessis*; '*but, pray,*' says the Nadouessis, '*what is your business?*' '*To hunt men,*' reply'd the Iroquois. '*'Tis well,*' says the Nadouessis; '*we are men, and so you need go no farther.*' Upon this challenge, the two parties disembarked, and the leader of the *Nadouessis* cut his canoes to pieces, and, after representing to his warriors that they behaved either to conquer or die, marched up to the Iroquois, who received them at first onset with a cloud of arrows. But the *Nadouessis* having stood their first discharge, which killed eighty of them, fell in upon them with their clubs in their hands before the others could charge again, and so routed them entirely. This engagement lasted for two hours, and was so hot that two hundred and sixty Iroquois fell upon the spot, and the rest were all taken prisoners. Some of the *Iroquois*, indeed, attempted to make their escape after the action

\* On La Hontan's map the place marked is designated by an island in the Mississippi, immediately at the mouth of the Des Moines.



was over; but the victorious general sent ten or twelve of his men to pursue them in one of the canoes that he had taken, and accordingly they were all overtaken and drowned. The Nadouessis having obtained this victory, cut off the noses and ears of two of the cleverest prisoners, and supplying them with fusees, powder and ball, gave them the liberty of returning to their own country, in order to tell their countrymen that they ought not to employ *women* to hunt after *men* any longer.”\*

The second tradition is that of a defeat of a war party of Iroquois upon the banks of the stream that now bears the name of “Iroquois River.” Father Charlevoix, in his Narrative Journal, referring to his passage down the Kankakee, in September, 1721, alludes to this defeat of the Iroquois in the following language: “I was not a little surprised at seeing so little water in the The-a-ki-ki, notwithstanding it receives a good many pretty large rivers, one of which is more than a hundred and twenty feet in breadth at its mouth, and has been called the *River of the Iroquois*, because some of that nation were surprised on its banks by the Illinois who killed a great many of them. This check mortified them so much the more, as they held the Illinois in great contempt, who, indeed, for the most part are not able to stand before them.”†

The tradition has been given with fuller particulars to the author, by Colonel Guerdon S. Hubbard, as it was related by the Indians to him. It has not as yet appeared in print, and is valuable as well as interesting, inasmuch as it explains why the Iroquois River has been so called for a period of nearly two centuries, and also because it gives the origin of the name *Watseka*.

The tradition is substantially as follows: Many years ago the Iroquois attacked an Indian village situated on the banks of the river a few miles below the old county seat,—Middleport,—and drove out the occupants with great slaughter. The fugitives were collected in the night time some distance away, lamenting their disaster. A woman, possessing great courage, urged the men to return and attack the Iroquois, saying the latter were then rioting in the spoils of the village and exulting over their victory; that they would not expect danger from their defeated enemy, and that the darkness of the night would prevent their knowing the advance upon them. The warriors refused to go. The woman then said that she would raise a party of squaws and return to the village and fight the Iroquois; adding that death or captivity would be the fate of the women and children on the morrow,

\* La Hontan's New Voyages to America, vol. 1, pp. 128, 129.

† Charlevoix' Narrative Journal, vol. 2, p. 199.



and that they might as well die in an effort to regain their village and property as to submit to a more dreadful fate. She called for volunteers and the women came forward in large numbers. Seeing the bravery of their wives and daughters the men were ashamed of their cowardice and became inspired with a desperate courage. A plan of attack was speedily formed and successfully executed. The Iroquois, taken entirely unawares, were surprised and utterly defeated.

The name of the heroine who suggested and took an active part in this act of bold retaliation, bore the name of *Watch-e-kee*. In honor of her bravery and to perpetuate the story of the engagement, a council of the tribe was convened which ordained that when Watch-e-kee died her name should be bestowed upon the most accomplished maiden of the tribe, and in this way be handed down from one generation to another. By such means have the name and the tradition been preserved.

The last person who bore this name was the daughter of a Pottawatomie chief, with whose band Col. Hubbard was intimately associated as a trader for many years. She was well known to many of the old settlers in Danville and upon the Kankakee. She was a person of great beauty, becoming modesty, and possessed of superior intelligence. She had great influence among her own people and was highly respected by the whites. She accompanied her tribe to the westward of the Mississippi, on their removal from the state. The present county seat of Iroquois county is named after her, and Col. Hubbard advises the author that Watseka, as the name is generally spelled, is incorrect, and that the orthography for its true pronunciation should be Watch-e-kec.\*

We resume the narration of the decline of the Illinois: La Salle's fortification at Starved Rock gathered about it populous villages of Illinois, Shawnees, Weas, Piankeshaws and other kindred tribes, shown on Franquelin's map as the Colonie Du Sr. de la Salle.† The Iroquois were barred out of the country of the Illinois tribes, and the latter enjoyed security from their old enemies. La Salle himself, speaking of his success in establishing a colony at the Rock, says: "There would be nothing to fear from the Iroquois when the nations of the south,

\* The Iroquois also bore the name of *Can-o-wa-ga*, doubtless an Indian name. It had another aboriginal name, *Mocabella* (which was, probably, a French-Canadian corruption of the Kickapoo word *Mo-qua*), signifying a bear. Beck's Illinois and Missouri Gazetteer, p. 90. The joint commission appointed by the legislatures of Indiana and Illinois to run the boundary line between the two states, in their report in 1821, and upon their map deposited in the archives at Indianapolis, designate the Iroquois by the name of Pick-a-mink River. They also named Sugar Creek after Mr. McDonald, of Vincennes, Indiana, who conducted the surveys for the commission.

† This part of Franquelin's map appears in the well executed frontispiece of Parkinsons Discovery of the Great West.

strengthened through their intercourse with the French, shall stop their conquest, and prevent their being powerful by carrying off a great number of their women and children, which they can easily do from the inferiority of the weapons of their enemies. As respects commerce, that post will probably increase our traffic still more than has been done by the establishment of Fort Frontenac, which was built with success for that purpose; for if the Illinois and their allies were to catch the beavers which the Iroquois now kill in the neighborhood in order to carry them to the English, the latter not being any longer able to get them from their own colonies would be obliged to buy from us, to the great benefit of those who have the privilege of this traffic. These were the views which the Sieur de la Salle had in placing the settlement where it is. The colony has already felt its effects, as all our allies, who had fled after the departure of M. de Frontenac, have returned to their ancient dwellings, in consequence of the confidence caused by the fort, near which they have defeated a party of Iroquois, and have built four forts to protect themselves from hostile incursions. The Governor, M. de la Barre, and the intendant, M. de Muelles, have told Sieur de la Salle that they would write to Monseigneur to inform him of the importance of that fort in order to keep the Iroquois in check, and that M. de Sagny had proposed its establishment in 1678. Monsiegnur Colbert permitted Sieur de la Salle to build it, and granted it to him as a property." \*

The fort at *Le Rocher* (the rock) was constructed on its summit in 1682, and enclosed with a palisade. It was subsequently granted to Tonti and Forest.† It was abandoned as a military post in the year 1702; and when Charlevoix went down the Illinois in 1721 he passed the Rock, and said of it: "This is the point of a very high terrace stretching the space of two hundred paces, and bending or winding with the course of the river. This rock is steep on all sides, and at a distance one would take it for a fortress. Some remains of a palisado are still to be seen on it, the Illinois having formerly cast up an entrenchment here, which might be easily repaired in case of any interruption of the enemy."‡

The abandonment of Fort St. Louis in 1702 was followed soon after by a dispersion of the tribes and remnants of tribes that La Salle and Tonti had gathered about it, except the straggling village of the Illinois.

\* Memoir of the Sieur de la Salle, reporting to Monseigneur de Seingelay the discoveries made by him under the order of His Majesty. Historical Collections of Louisiana, Part I, p. 42.

† Paris Documents, vol. 9, p. 494.

‡ Charlevoix' Narrative Journal, vol. 2, p. 200.

The Iroquois came no more subsequent to 1721, having war enough on their hands nearer home; but the Illinois were constantly harassed by other enemies; the Sacs, Foxes, Kickapoos and Pottawatomies. In 1722 their villages at the Rock and on Peoria Lake were besieged by the Foxes, and a detachment of a hundred men under Chevalier de Artaguet and Sieur de Tisé were sent to their assistance. Forty of these French soldiers, with four hundred Indians, marched by land to Peoria Lake. However, before the reinforcements reached their destination they learned that the Foxes had retreated with a loss of more than a hundred and twenty of their men. "This success did not, however, prevent the Illinois, although they had only lost twenty men, with some women and children, from leaving the Rock and Pimiteony, where they were kept in constant alarm, and proceeding to unite with those of their brethren who had settled on the Mississippi; this was a stroke of grace for most of them, the small number of missionaries preventing their supplying so many towns scattered far apart; but on the other side, as there was nothing to check the raids of the Foxes along the Illinois River, communication between Louisiana and New France became much less practicable."\*

The fatal dissolution of the Illinois still proceeded, and their ancient homes and hunting grounds were appropriated by the more vigorous Sacs, Foxes, Pottawatomies and Kickapoos. The killing of Pontiac at Cahokia, whither he had retired after the failure of his effort to rescue the country from the English, was laid upon the Illinois, a charge which, whether true or false, hastened the climax of their destruction.

General Harrison stated that "the Illinois confederacy was composed of five tribes: the Kaskaskias, Cahokias, Peorians, Michiganians and the Temarois, speaking the Miami language, and no doubt branches of that nation. When I was first appointed Governor of the Indiana Territory (May, 1800), these once powerful tribes were reduced to about thirty warriors, of whom twenty-five were Kaskaskias, four Peorians, and a single Michigani. There was an individual lately alive at St. Louis who saw the enumeration made of them by the Jesuits in 1745, making the number of their warriors four thousand. A furious war between them and the Sacs and Kickapoos reduced them to that miserable remnant which had taken refuge amongst the white people in the towns of Kaskaskia and St. Genieve."†

\* History of New France, vol. 6, p. 71.

† Official letter of Gen. Harrison to Hon. John Armstrong, Secretary of War, dated at Cincinnati, March 22, 1814: contained in Captain M'Afee's "History of the Late War in the Western Country."

By successive treaties their lands in Illinois were ceded to the United States, and they were removed west of the Missouri. In 1872 they had dwindled to forty souls—men, women and children all told.

Thus have wasted away the original occupants of the larger part of Illinois and portions of Iowa and Missouri. In 1684 their single village at La Salle's colony, could muster twelve hundred warriors. In the days of their strength they nearly exterminated the Winnebagoes, and their war parties penetrated the towns of the Iroquois in the valleys of the Mohawk and Genesee. They took the Metchigamis under their protection, giving them security against enemies with whom the latter could not contend. This people who had dominated over the surrounding tribes, claiming for themselves the name Illini or Linneway, to represent their superior manhood, have disappeared from the earth; another race, representing a higher civilization, occupy their ancient domains, and already, even the origin of their name and the location of their cities have become the subjects of speculation.



## CHAPTER XIV.

### THE MIAMIS—THE MIAMI, PIANKESHAW, AND WEA BANDS.

THE people known to us as the Miamis formerly dwelt beyond the Mississippi, and, according to their own traditions, came originally from the Pacific. "If what I have heard asserted in several places be true, the Illinois and Miamis came from the banks of a very distant sea to the westward. It would seem that their first stand, after they made their first descent into this country, was at *Moingona*.<sup>\*</sup> At least it is certain that one of their tribes bears that name. The rest are known under the name of Peorias, Tamaroas, Caoquias and Kaskaskias."

The migration of the Miamis from the west of the Mississippi, eastward through Wisconsin and northern Illinois, around the southern end of Lake Michigan to Detroit, and thence up the Maumee and down the Wabash, and eastward through Indiana into Ohio as far as the Great Miami, can be followed through the mass of records handed down to us from the missionaries, travelers and officers connected with the French. Speaking of the mixed village of Maskoutens, situated on Fox River, Wisconsin, at the time of his visit there in 1670, Father Claude Dablon says the village of the Fire-nation "is joined in the circle of the same barriers to another people, named Onmiami, which is one of the Illinois nations, which is, as it were, dismembered from the others, in order to dwell in these quarters.† It is beyond this great river‡ that are placed the Illinois of whom we speak, and from whom are detached those who dwell here with the Fire-nation to form here a transplanted colony."

From the quotations made there remains little doubt that the Miamis were originally a branch of the great Illinois nation. This theory is confirmed by writers of our own time, among whom we may mention General William H. Harrison, whose long acquaintance and official connection with the several bands of the Miamis and Illinois gave him

<sup>\*</sup> Charlevoix' Narrative Journal, vol. 2, p. 227. Moingona, from undoubted authorities, was a name given to the Des Moines River; and we find on the original map, drawn by Marquette, the village of the Moingona placed on the Des Moines above a village of the Peorias on the same stream.

† Father Dablon is here describing the same village referred to by Father Marquette in that part of his Journal which we have copied on page 44.

‡ The Mississippi, of which the missionary had been speaking in the paragraph preceding that which we quote.

the opportunities, of which he availed himself, to acquire an intimate knowledge concerning them. "Although the language, manners and customs of the Kaskaskias make it sufficiently certain that they derived their origin from the same source with the Miamis, the connection had been dissolved before the French had penetrated from Canada to the Mississippi."\* The assertion of General Harrison that the tribal relation between the Illinois and Miamis had been broken at the time of the discovery of the Upper Mississippi valley by the French is sustained with great unanimity by all other authorities. In the long and disastrous wars waged upon the Illinois by the Iroquois, Sacs and Foxes, Kickapoos and other enemies, we have no instance given where the Miamis ever offered assistance to their ancient kinsmen. After the separation, on the contrary, they often lifted the bloody hatchet against them.

Father Dablon, in the narrative from which we have quoted,† gives a detailed account of the civility of the Miamis at Mascouten, and the formality and court routine with which their great chief was surrounded. "The chief of the Miamis, whose name was *Tetinchoua*, was surrounded by the most notable people of the village, who, assuming the rôle of courtiers, with civil posture full of deference, and keeping always a respectful silence, magnified the greatness of their king. The chief and his routine gave Father Dablon every mark of their most distinguished esteem. The physiognomy of the chief was as mild and as attractive as any one could wish to see; and while his reputation as a warrior was great, his features bore a softness which charmed all those who beheld him."

Nicholas Perrot, with Sieur de St. Lussin, dispatched by Talon, the intendant, to visit the westward nations, with whom the French had intercourse, and invite them to a council to be held the following spring at the Sault Ste. Marie, was at this Miami village shortly after the visit of Dablon. Perrot was treated with great consideration by the Miamis. Tatinchoua, "sent out a detachment to meet the French agent and receive him in military style. The detachment advanced in battle array, all the braves adorned with feathers, armed at all points, were uttering war cries from time to time. The Pottawatomies who escorted Perrot, seeing them come in this guise, prepared to receive them in the same manner, and Perrot put himself at their head. When the two troops were in face of each other, they stopped as if to take breath, then all at once Perrot took the right, the Miamis the left, all running in Indian file, as though they wished to gain an advantage to charge.

\* Memoirs of General Harrison, by Moses Dawson, p. 62.

† Relations, 1670, 1671.

"But the Miamis wheeling in the form of an arc, the Pottawatomies were invested on all sides. Then both uttered loud yells, which were the signals for a kind of combat. The Miamis fired a volley from their guns, which were only loaded with powder, and the Pottawatomies returned it in the same way; after this they closed, tomahawk in hand, all the blows being received on the tomahawks. Peace was then made; the Miamis presented the calumet to Perrot, and led him with all his chief escort into the town, where the great chief assigned him a guard of fifty men, regaled him magnificently after the custom of the country, and gave him the diversion of a game of ball."\* The Miami chief never spoke to his subjects, but imparted his orders through some of his officers. On account of his advanced age he was dissuaded from attending the council to be held at Ste. Marie, between the French and the Indians; however, he deputed the Pottawatomies to act in his name.

This confederacy called themselves "Miamis," and by this name were known to the surrounding tribes. The name was not bestowed upon them by the French, as some have assumed from its resemblance to *Mon-ami*, because they were the *friends* of the latter. When Hennepin was captured on the Mississippi by a war party of the Sioux, these savages, with their painted faces rendered more hideous by the devilish contortions of their features, cried out in angry voices, "'*Mia-hama! Mia-hama!*' and we made signs with our oars upon the sand, that the Miamis, their enemies, of whom they were in search, had passed the river upon their flight to join the Illinois."†

"The confederacy which obtained the general appellation of Miamis, from the superior numbers of the individual tribe to whom that name more properly belonged," were subdivided into three principal tribes or bands, namely, the Miamis proper, Weas and Piankeshaws. French writers have given names to two or three other subdivisions or families of the three principal bands, whose identity has never been clearly traced, and who figure so little in the accounts which we have of the Miamis, that it is not necessary here to specify their obsolete names. The different ways of writing

\*History of New France, vol. 3, pp. 166, 167. Father Charlevoix improperly locates this village, where Perrot was received, at "Chicago, at the lower end of Lake Michigan, where the Miamis then were," page 166, above quoted. The Miamis were not then at Chicago. The reception of Perrot was at the mixed village on Fox River, Wisconsin, as stated in the text. The error of Charlevoix, as to the location of this village, has been pointed out by Dr. Shea, in a note on page 166, in the "History of New France," and also by Francis Parkman, in a note on page 40 of his "Discovery of the Great West."

† Hennepin, p. 187.



Miamis are: Ouniamwek,\* Oumamis,† Maumees,‡ Au-Miami § (contracted to Au-Mi and Omee) and Mine-ami. ||

The French called the Weas Ouiatenons, Syatanons, Ouyatanons and Ouias; the English and Colonial traders spelled the word, Ouicatanon, ¶ Way-ough-ta nies,\*\* Wawiachtens,†† and Wehals.‡‡

For the Piankeshaws, or *Pou-an-ke-ki-as*, as they were called in the earliest accounts, we have Peanguichias, Pian-gui-shaws, Pyanke-shas and Pianquishas.

The Miami tribes were known to the Iroquois, or Five Nations of New York, as the *Twight-wees*, a name generally adopted by the British, as well as by the American colonists. Of this name there are various corruptions in pronunciation and spelling, examples of which we have in "Twich-twicks," "Twick-twicks," "Twis-twicks," "Twigh-twees," and "Twick-tovies." The insertion of these many names, applied to one people, would seem a tedious superfluity, were it otherwise possible to retain the identity of the tribes to which these different appellations have been given by the French, British and American officers, traders and writers. It will save the reader much perplexity in pursuing a history of the Miamis if it is borne in mind that all these several names refer to the Miami nation or to one or the other of its respective bands.

Besides the colony mentioned by Dablon and Charlevoix, on the Fox River of Wisconsin, Hennepin informs us of a village of Miamis south and west of Peoria Lake at the time he was at the latter place in 1679, and it was probably this village whose inhabitants the Sioux were seeking. St. Cosmie, in 1699, mentions the "village of the 'Peanzichias-Miamis, who formerly dwelt on the — of the Mississippi, and who had come some years previous and settled' on the Illinois River, a few miles below the confluence of the Des Plaines." §§

The Miamis were within the territory of La Salle's colony, of which Starved Rock was the center, and counted thirteen hundred warriors. The Weas and Piankeshaws were also there, the former having five hundred warriors and the Piankeshaw band one hundred and fifty. This was prior to 1687. ||| At a later day the Weas "were at Chicago, but being afraid of the canoe people, left it." ¶¶¶ Sieur de Courtmanche, sent westward in 1701 to negotiate with the tribes in that part of New France, was at "Chicago, where he found some

\* Marquette. † La Hontan. ‡ Gen. Harrison. § Gen. Harmar. || Lewis Evans.

¶ George Croghan's Narrative Journal. \*\* Croghan's List of Indian Tribes.

†† John Heckwelder, a Moravian Missionary. ‡‡ Catlin's Indian Tribes.

§§ St. Cosmie's Journal in "Early Voyages Up and Down the Mississippi," p. 58.

||| Parkman's Discovery of the Great West, note on p. 290.

¶¶¶ Memoir on the Indian tribes, prepared in 1718: Paris Documents, vol. 9, p. 890.



Weas (Ouiatanons), a Miami tribe, who had sung the war-song against the Sioux and the Iroquois. He obliged them to lay down their arms and extorted from them a promise to send deputies to Montreal." \*

In a letter dated in 1721, published in his "Narrative Journal," Father Charlevoix, speaking of the Miamis about the head of Lake Michigan, says: "Fifty years ago the Miamis were settled on the southern extremity of Lake Michigan, in a place called Chicagou, from the name of a small river which runs into the lake, the source of which is not far distant from that of the river of the Illinois; they are at present divided into three villages, one of which stands on the river St. Joseph, the second on another river which bears their name and runs into Lake Erie, and the third upon the river Ouabache, which empties its waters into the Mississippi. These last are better known by the appellation of Ouyatanons." †

In 1694, Count Frontenac, in a conference with the Western Indians, requested the Miamis of the Pepikokia band who resided on the Maramek,‡ to remove, and join the tribe which was located on the Saint Joseph, of Lake Michigan. The reason for this request, as stated by Frontenac himself, was, that he wished the different bands of the Miami confederacy to unite, "so as to be able to execute with greater facility the commands which he might issue." At that time the Iroquois were at war with Canada, and the French were endeavoring to persuade the western tribes to take up the tomahawk in their behalf. The Miamis promised to observe the Governor's wishes and began to make preparations for the removal.§

"Late in August, 1696, they started to join their brethren settled on the St. Joseph. On their way they were attacked by the Sioux, who killed several. The Miamis of the St. Joseph, learning this hostility, resolved to avenge their slaughter. They pursued the Sioux to their own country, and found them entrenched in their fort, with some Frenchmen of the class known as *coureurs des bois* (bush-lopers). They nevertheless attacked them repeatedly with great resolution, but were repulsed, and at last compelled to retire, after losing several of their braves. On their way home, meeting other Frenchmen carrying arms and ammunition to the Sioux, they seized all they had, but did them no harm." ||

The Miamis were very much enraged at the French for supplying

\* History of New France, vol. 5, p. 142.

† Charlevoix' Narrative Journal, vol. 1, p. 287.

‡ The Kalamazoo, of Michigan.

§ Paris Documents, vol. 9, pp. 624, 625.

|| Charlevoix' History of New France, vol. 5, p. 65.

their enemies, the Sioux, with guns and ammunition. It took all the address of Count Frontenac to prevent them from joining the Iroquois; indeed, they seized upon the French agent and trader, Nicholas Perrot, who had been commissioned to lead the Maramek band to the St. Josephs, and would have burnt him alive had it not been for the Foxes, who interposed in his behalf.\* This was the commencement of the bitter feeling of hostility with which, from that time, a part of the Miamis always regarded the French. From this period the movements of the tribe were observed by the French with jealous suspicion.

We have already shown that in 1699 the Miamis were at Fort Wayne, engaged in transferring across their portage emigrants from Canada to Louisiana, and that, within a few years after, the Weas are described as having their fort and several miles of cultivated fields on the Wea plains below La Fayette.† From the extent and character of these improvements, it may be safely assumed that the Weas had been established here some years prior to 1718, the date of the Memoir.

When the French first discovered the Wabash, the Piankeshaws were found in possession of the land on either side of that stream, from its mouth to the *Vermilion River*, and no claim had ever been made to it by any other tribe until 1804, the period of a cession of a part of it to the United States by the Delawares, who had obtained their title from the Piankeshaws themselves.‡

We have already seen that at the time of the first account we have relating to the Maumee and the Wabash, the Miamis had villages and extensive improvements near Fort Wayne, on the Wea prairie below La Fayette, on the Vermilion of the Wabash, and at Vincennes. At a later day they established villages at other places, viz, near the forks of the Wabash at Huntington, on the Mississinewa,§ on Eel River near Logansport, while near the source of this river, and westward of Fort Wayne, was the village of the "Little Turtle." Near the mouth of the Tippecanoe was a sixth village.

\* Paris Documents, vol. 9, p. 672.

† *Vide*, p. 104.

‡ Memoirs of General Harrison, pp. 61, 63.

§ This stream empties into the Wabash near Peru, and on the opposite side of the river from that city. The word is a compound of *missi*, great, and *assin*, stone, signifying the river of the great or much stone. "The Mississinewa, with its pillared rocks, is full of geological as well as romantic interest. Some three miles from Peru the channel is cut through a solid wall of cherty silico-magnesian limestone. The action of the river and unequal disintegration of the rocks has carved the precipitous wall, which converts the river's course into a system of pillars, rounded buttresses, alcoves, chambers and overhanging sides." Prof. Collett's Report on the Geology of Miami county, Indiana.

Passing below the Vermilion, the Miamis had other villages, one on Sugar creek\* and another near Terre Haute.†

The country of the Miamis extended west to the watershed between the Illinois and Wabash rivers, which separated their possessions from those of their brethren, the Illinois. On the north were the Pottawatomies, who were slowly but steadily pushing their lines southward into the territory of the Miamis. The superior numbers of the Miamis and their great valor enabled them to extend the limit of their hunting grounds eastward into Ohio, and far within the territory claimed by the Iroquois. "They were the undoubted proprietors of all that beautiful country watered by the Wabash and its tributaries, and there remains as little doubt that their claim extended as far east as the Scioto."‡

Unlike the Illinois, the Miamis held their own until they were placed upon an equal footing with the tribes eastward by obtaining possession of fire-arms. With these implements of civilized warfare they were able to maintain their tribal integrity and the independence they cherished. They were not to be controlled by the French, nor did they suffer enemies from any quarter to impose upon them without prompt retaliation. They traded and fought with the French, English and Americans as their interests or passions inclined. They made peace or declared war against other nations of their own race as policy or caprice dictated. More than once they compelled even the arrogant Iroquois to beg from the governors of the American colonies that protection which they themselves had failed to secure by their own prowess. Bold, independent and flushed with success, the Miamis afforded a poor field for missionary work, and the Jesuit Relations and pastoral letters of the French priesthood have less to say of the Miami confederacy than any of the other western tribes, the Kickapoos alone excepted.

The country of the Miamis was accessible, by way of the lakes, to the fur trader of Canada, and from the eastward, to the adventurers engaged in the Indian trade from Pennsylvania, New York and Virginia, either by way of the Ohio River or a commerce carried on overland by means of pack-horses. The English and the French alike coveted their peltries and sought their powerful alli-

\*This stream was at one time called Rocky River, vide Brown's Western Gazetteer. By the Wea Miamis it was called *Pun-go-se-con-e*, "Sugar tree" (creek), vide statement of Mary Ann Baptiste to the author.

†The villages below the Vermilion and above Vincennes figure on some of the early English maps and in accounts given by traders as the lower or little Wea towns. Besides these, which were the principal ones, the Miamis had a village at Thorntown, and many others of lesser note on the Wabash and its tributaries.

‡Official Letter of General Harrison to the Secretary of War, before quoted.



ance, therefore the Miamis were harassed with the jealousies and diplomacy of both, and if they or a part of their several tribes became inveigled into an alliance with the one, it involved the hostility of the other. The French government sought to use them to check the westward advance of the British colonial influence, while the latter desired their assistance to curb the French, whose ambitious schemes involved nothing less than the exclusive subjugation of the entire continent westward of the Alleghanies. In these wars between the English and the French the Miamis were constantly reduced in numbers, and whatever might have been the result to either of the former, it only ended in disaster to themselves. Sometimes they divided; again they were entirely devoted to the interest of the English and Iroquois. Then they joined the French against the British and Iroquois, and when the British ultimately obtained the mastery and secured the valley of the Mississippi,—the long sought for prize,—the Miamis entered the confederacy of Pontiac to drive them out of the country. They fought with the British, —except the Piankeshaw band,—against the colonies during the revolutionary war. After its close their young men were largely occupied in the predatory warfare waged by the several Maumee and Wabash tribes upon the frontier settlements of Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia and Kentucky. They likewise entered the confederacy of Tecumseh, and, either openly or in secret sympathy, they were the allies of the British in the war of 1812. Their history occupies a conspicuous place in the military annals of the west, extending over a period of a century, during which time they maintained a manly struggle to retain possession of their homes in the valleys of the Wabash and Maumee.

The disadvantage under which the Miamis labored, in encounters with their enemies, before they obtained fire-arms, was often overcome by the exercise of their cunning and bravery. “In the year 1680 the Miamis and Illinois were hunting on the St. Joseph River. A party of four hundred Iroquois surprised them and killed thirty or forty of their hunters and captured three hundred of their women and children. After the victors had rested awhile they prepared to return to their homes by easy journeys, as they had reason to believe that they could reach their own villages before the defeated enemy would have time to rally and give notice of their disaster to those of their nation who were hunting in remoter places. But they were deceived; for the Illinois and Miamis rallied to the number of two hundred, and resolved to die fighting rather than suffer their women and children to be carried away. In the meantime, because they



were not equal to their enemies in equipment of arms or numbers, they contrived a notable stratagem.

After the Miamis had duly considered in what way they would attack the Iroquois, they decided to follow them, keeping a small distance in the rear, until it should rain. The heavens seemed to favor their plan, for, after awhile it began to rain, and rained continually the whole day from morning until night. When the rain began to fall the Miamis quickened their march and passed by the Iroquois, and took a position two leagues in advance, where they lay in an ambuscade, hidden by the tall grass, in the middle of a prairie, which the Iroquois had to cross in order to reach the woods beyond, where they designed to kindle fires and encamp for the night. The Illinois and Miamis, lying at full length in the grass on either side of the trail, waited until the Iroquois were in their midst, when they shot off their arrows, and then attacked vigorously with their clubs. The Iroquois endeavored to use their fire-arms, but finding them of no service because the rain had dampened and spoiled the priming, threw them upon the ground, and undertook to defend themselves with their clubs. In the use of the latter weapon the Iroquois were no match for their more dexterous and nimble enemies. They were forced to yield the contest, and retreated, fighting until night came on. They lost one hundred and eighty of their warriors.

The fight lasted about an hour, and would have continued through the night, were it not that the Miamis and Illinois feared that their women and children (left in the rear and bound) would be exposed to some surprise in the dark. The victors rejoined their women and children, and possessed themselves of the fire-arms of their enemies. The Miamis and Illinois then returned to their own country, without taking one Iroquois for fear of weakening themselves.\*

Failing in their first efforts to withdraw the Miamis from the French, and secure their fur trade to the merchants at Albany and New York, the English sent their allies, the Iroquois, against them. A series of encounters between the two tribes was the result, in

\* This account is taken from La Hontan, vol. 2, pp. 63, 64 and 65. The facts concerning the engagement, as given by La Hontan, may be relied upon as substantially correct, for they were written only a few years after the event. La Hontan, as appears from the date of his letters which comprise the principal part of his volumes, was in this country from November, 1683, to 1689, and it was during this time that he was collecting the information contained in his works. The place where this engagement between the Miamis and Illinois against the Iroquois occurred, is a matter of doubt. Some late commentators claim that it was upon the Maumee. La Hontan says that the engagement was "near the river *Oumamis*." When he wrote, the St. Joseph of Lake Michigan was called the river *Ounamis*, and on the map accompanying La Hontan's volume it is so-called, while the Maumee, though laid down on the map, is designated by no name whatever. It would, therefore, appear that when La Hontan mentioned the Miami River he referred to the St. Joseph.

which the blood of both was profusely shed, to further the purposes of a purely commercial transaction.

In these engagements the Senecas—a tribe of the Iroquois, or Five Nations, residing to the west of the other tribes of the confederacy, and, in consequence, being nearest to the Miamis, and more directly exposed to their fury—were nearly destroyed at the outset. The Miamis followed up their success and drove the Senecas behind the palisades that inclosed their villages. For three years the war was carried on with a bitterness only known to exasperated savages.

When at last the Iroquois saw they could no longer defend themselves against the Miamis, they appeared in council before the Governor of New York, and, pittingly, claimed protection from him, who, to say the least, had remained silent and permitted his own people to precipitate this calamity upon them.

“You say you will support us against all your kings and our enemies; we will then forbear keeping any more correspondence with the French of Canada if the great King of England will defend our people from the *Twichtwicks* and other nations over whom the French have an influence and have encouraged to destroy an abundance of our people, *even since the peace between the two crowns*,” etc.\*

The governor declined sending troops to protect the Iroquois against their enemies, but informed them: “You must be sensible that the Dowaganaes, Twichtwicks, etc., and other remote Indians, are vastly more numerous than you Five Nations, and that, by their continued warring upon you, they will, in a few years, totally destroy you. I should, therefore, think it prudence and good policy *in you to try* all possible means to fix a trade and correspondence with all those nations, by which means *you* would reconcile them to yourselves, and with my assistance, I am in hopes that, in a short time, they might be united with us in the covenant chain, and then you might, at all times, without hazard, go hunting into their country, which, I understand, is much the best for beaver. I wish you would try to bring some of them to speak to me, and perhaps I might prevail upon them to come and live amongst you. I should think myself obliged to reward you for such a piece of service as I tender your good advantage, and will always use my best endeavor to preserve you from all your enemies.”

\* Speech of an Iroquois chief at a conference held at Albany, August 26, 1700, between Richard, Earl of Belmont, Captain-General and Governor-in-Chief of His Majesty's provinces of New York, etc., and the sachems of the Five Nations. New York Colonial Documents, vol. 4, p. 729.

The conference continued several days, during which the Iroquois stated their grievances in numerous speeches, to which the governor graciously replied, using vague terms and making no promises, after the manner of the extract from his speech above quoted, but placed great stress on the value of the fur trade to the English, and enjoining his brothers, the Iroquois, to bring all their peltries to Albany; to maintain their old alliance with the English, offensive and defensive, and have no intercourse whatever, of a friendly nature, with the rascally French of Canada.

The Iroquois declined to follow the advice of the governor, deeming it of little credit to their courage to sue for peace. In the meantime the governor sent emissaries out among the Miamis, with an invitation to open a trade with the English. The messengers were captured by the commandant at Detroit, and sent, as prisoners, to Canada. However, the Mianis, in July, 1702, sent, through the sachems of the Five Nations, a message to the governor at Albany, advising him that many of the Miamis, with another nation, had removed to, and were then living at, Tjughshaghrondie,\* near by the fort which the French had built the previous summer; that they had been informed that one of their chiefs, who had visited Albany two years before, had been kindly treated, and that they had now come forward to inquire into the trade of Albany, and see if goods could not be purchased there cheaper than elsewhere, and that they had intended to go to Canada with their beaver and peltries, but that they ventured to Albany to inquire if goods could not be secured on better terms. The governor replied that he was extremely pleased to speak with the Miamis about the establishment of a lasting friendship and trade, and in token of his sincere intentions presented his guests with guns, powder, hats, strouds, tobacco and pipes, and sent to their brethren at Detroit, waumpum, pipes, shells, nose and ear jewels, looking-glasses, fans, children's toys, and such other light articles as his guests could conveniently carry; and, finally, assured them that the Miamis might come freely to Albany, where they would be treated kindly, and receive, in exchange for their peltries, everything as cheap as any other Indians in covenant of friendship with the English.†

During the same year (1702) the Miamis and Senecas settled their quarrels, exchanged prisoners, and established a peace between themselves.‡

\* The Iroquois name for the Straits of Detroit.

† Proceedings of a conference between the parties mentioned above. New York Colonial Documents, vol. 4, pp. 979 to 981.

‡ New York Colonial Documents, vol. 4, p. 989.



The French were not disposed to allow a portion of the fur trade to be diverted to Albany. Peaceable means were first used to dissuade the Miamis from trading with the English; failing in this, forcible means were resorted to. Captain Antoine De La Mothe Cadillac marched against the Miamis and reduced them to terms.\*

The Miamis were not unanimous in the choice of their friends. Some adhered to the French, while others were strongly inclined to trade with the English, of whom they could obtain a better quality of goods at cheaper rates, while at the same time they were allowed a greater price for their furs. Cadillac had hardly effected a coercive peace with the Miamis before the latter were again at Albany. "I have," writes Lord Cournbury to the Board of Trade, in a letter dated August 20, 1708,† "been there five years endeavoring to get these nations [referring to the Miamis and another nation] to trade with our people, but the French have always dissuaded them from coming until this year, when, goods being very scarce, they came to Albany, where our people have supplied them with goods much cheaper than ever the French did, and they promise to return in the spring with a much greater number of their nations, which would be a very great advantage to this province. I did, in a letter of the 25th day of June last, inform your Lordships that three French soldiers, having deserted from the French at a place they call Le Dèstrois, came to Albany. Another deserter came from the same place, whom I examined myself, and I inclose a copy of his examination, by which your Lordships will perceive how easily the *French may be beaten out of Canada*. The better I am acquainted with this country, and the more I inquire into matters, so much the more I am confirmed in my opinion of the facility of effecting that conquest, and by the method I then proposed."

Turning to French documents we find that Sieur de Callier desired the Miamis to withdraw from their several widely separated villages and settle in a body upon the St. Joseph. At a great council of the westward tribes, held in Montreal in 1694, the French Intendant, in a speech to the Miamis, declares that "he will not believe that the Miamis wish to obey him until they make altogether one and the same fire, either at the River St. Joseph or at some other place adjoining it. He tells them that he has got near the Iroquois, and has soldiers at Katarakoui,‡ in the fort that had been abandoned; that the Miamis must get near the enemy, in order to imitate him

\* Paris Documents, vol. 9, p. 671: note of the editor.

† New York Colonial Documents, vol. 5, p. 65.

‡ At Fort Frontenac.



(the Intendant), and be able to strike the Iroquois the more readily. My children," continued the Intendant, "tell me that the Miamis are numerous, and able of themselves to destroy the Iroquois. Like them, all are afraid. What! do you wish to abandon your country to your enemy? . . . Have you forgotten that I waged war against him, principally on your account, alone? Your dead are no longer visible in his country; their bodies are covered by those of the French who have perished to avenge them. I furnished you the means to avenge them, likewise. It depends only on me to receive the Iroquois as a friend, which I will not do on account of you, who would be destroyed were I to make peace without including you in its terms." \*

"I have heard," writes Governor Vaudreuil, in a letter dated the 28th of October, 1719, to the Council of Marine at Paris, "that the Miamis had resolved to remain where they were, and not go to the St. Joseph River, and that this resolution of theirs was dangerous, on account of the facility they would have of communicating with the English, who were incessantly distributing belts secretly among the nations, to attract them to themselves, and that Sieur Dubinson had been designed to command the post of Ouaytanons, where he should use his influence among the Miamis to induce them to go to the River St. Joseph, and in case they were not willing, that he should remain with them, to counteract the effect of those belts, which had already caused eight or ten Miami canoes to go that year to trade at Albany, and which might finally induce all of the Miami nation to follow the example."† Finally, some twenty-five years later, as we learn from the letter of M. de Beauharnois, that this French officer, having learned that the English had established trading magazines on the Ohio, issued his orders to the commandants among the Weas and Miamis, to drive the British off by force of arms and plunder their stores.‡

Other extracts might be drawn from the voluminous reports of the military and civil officers of the French and British colonial governments respectively, to the same purport as those already quoted; but enough has been given to illustrate the unfortunate position of the Miamis. For a period of half a century they were placed between the cutting edges of English and French purposes, during which there was no time when they were not threatened with danger of, or engaged in, actual war either with the French or the English, or with some of their several Indian allies.

\* Paris Documents, vol. 9, p. 625.

† Ibid, p. 894.

‡ Ibid, p. 1105.

By this continual abrasion, the peace and happiness which should have been theirs was wholly lost, and their numbers constantly reduced. They had no relief from the strife, in which only injury could result to themselves, let the issue have been what it might between the English and the French, until the power of the latter was finally destroyed in 1763; and even then, after the French had given up the country, the Miamis were compelled to defend their own title to it against the arrogant claims of the English. In the effort of the combined westward tribes to wrest their country from the English, subsequent to the close of the colonial war, the Miamis took a conspicuous part. This will be noticed in a subsequent chapter. After the conclusion of the revolutionary war, the several Miami villages from the Vermilion River to Fort Wayne suffered severely from the attacks of the federal government under General Harmer, and the military expeditions recruited in Kentucky, and commanded by Colonels Scott and Wilkinson. Besides these disasters, whole villages were nearly depopulated by the ravages of small-pox. The uncontrollable thirst for whisky, acquired, through a long course of years, by contact with unscrupulous traders, reduced their numbers still more, while it degraded them to the last degree. This was their condition in 1814, when General Harrison said of them: "The Miamis will not be in our way. They are a poor, miserable, drunken set, diminishing every year. Becoming too lazy to hunt, they feel the advantage of their annuities. The fear of the other Indians has alone prevented them from selling their whole claim to the United States; and as soon as there is peace, or when the British can no longer intrigue, they will sell."\* The same authority, in his historical address at Cincinnati in 1838, on the aborigines of the Valley of the Ohio, says: "At any time before the treaty of Greenville in 1795 the Miamis alone could have furnished more than three thousand warriors. Constant war with our frontier had deprived them of many of their braves, but the ravages of small-pox was the principal cause of the great decrease in their numbers. They composed, however, a body of the *finest light troops in the world*. And had they been under an efficient system of discipline, or possessed enterprise equal to their valor, the settlement of the country would have been attended with much greater difficulty than was encountered in accomplishing it, and their final subjugation would have been delayed for some years."†

Yet their decline, from causes assigned, was so rapid, that when

\* Official letter of General Harrison to the Secretary of War, of date March 24, 1814.

† P. 39 of General Harrison's address, original pamphlet edition.

the Baptist missionary, Isaac McCoy, was among them from 1817 until 1822, and drawing conclusions from personal contact, declared that the Miamis were not a warlike people. There is, perhaps, in the history of the North American Indians, no instance parallel to the utter demoralization of the Miamis, nor an example of a tribe which stood so high and had fallen so low through the practice of all the vices which degrade human beings. Mr. McCoy, within the period named, traveled up and down the Wabash, from Terre Haute to Fort Wayne; and at the villages near Montezuma, on Eel River, at the Mississinewa and Fort Wayne, there were continuous rounds of drunken debauchery whenever whisky could be obtained, of which men, women and children all partook, and life was often sacrificed in personal broils or by exposure of the debauchees to the inclemency of the weather.\*

By treaties, entered into at various times, from 1795 to 1845, inclusive, the Miamis ceded their lands in Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, and removed west of the Mississippi, going in villages or by detachments, from time to time. At a single cession in 1838 they sold the government 177,000 acres of land in Indiana, which was only a fragment of their former possessions, still retaining a large tract. Thus they alienated their heritage, and gradually disappeared from the valleys of the Maumee and Wabash. A few remained on their reservations and adapted themselves to the ways of the white people, and their descendants may be occasionally met with about Peru, Wabash and Fort Wayne. The money received from sales of their lands proved to them a calamity, rather than a blessing, as it introduced the most demoralizing habits. It is estimated that within a period of eighteen years subsequent to the close of the war of 1812 more than five hundred of them perished in drunken broils and fights.†

The last of the Miamis to go westward were the Mississinewa band. This remnant, comprising in all three hundred and fifty persons, under charge of Christmas Dagney,‡ left their old home in the

\* Mr. McCoy has contributed a valuable fund of original information in his *History of Baptist Indian Missions*, published in 1840. The volume contains six hundred and eleven pages. He mentions many instances of drunken orgies which he witnessed in the several Miami towns. We quote one of them: "An intoxicated Indian at Fort Wayne dismounted from his horse and ran up to a young Indian woman who was his sister-in-law, with a knife in his hand. She first ran around one of the company present, and then another, to avoid the murderer, but in vain. He stabbed her with his knife. She then fled from the company. He stood looking after her, and seeing she did not fall, pursued her, threw her to the earth and drove his knife into her heart, in the presence of the whole company, none of whom ventured to save the girl's life." P. 85.

† *Vide American Cyclopædia*, vol. 11, p. 490.

‡ His name was, also, spelled Dazney and Dagnett. He was born on the 25th of December, 1799, at the Wea village of Old Orchard Town, or *We-au-ta-no*, "The Risen Sun," situated two miles below Fort Harrison. His father, Ambroise Dagney,



fall of 1846, and reached Cincinnati on canal-boats in October of that year. Here they were placed upon a steamboat and taken down the Ohio, up the Mississippi and Missouri, and landed late in the season at Westport, near Kansas City. Ragged men and nearly naked women and children, forming a motley group, were huddled upon the shore, alone, with no friends to relieve their wants, and exposed to the bitter December winds that blew from the chilly plains of Kansas. In 1670 the Jesuit Father Dablon introduces the Miami to our notice at the village of Maskoutench, where we see the chief surrounded by his officers of state in all the routine of barbaric display, and the natives of other tribes paying his subjects the greatest deference. The Miami, advancing eastward, in the rear of the line of their valorous warriors, pushed their villages into Michigan, Indiana, and as far as the river still bearing their name in Ohio. Coming in collision with the French, English and Americans, reduced by constant wars, and decimated, more than all, with vices contracted by intercourse with the whites, whose virtues they failed to emulate, they make a westward turn, and having, in the progress of time, described the round of a most singular journey, we at last behold the miserable and friendless remnant on the same side of the

was a Frenchman, a native of Kaskaskia, and served during Harrison's campaign against the Indians, in 1811, in Captain Scott's company, raised at Vincennes. He took part in the battle of Tippecanoe. His mother, *Me-chin-quam-e-sha*, the Beautiful Shade Tree, was the sister of Jocco, or *Tack-ke-ke-kah*, "The Tall Oak," who was chief of the Wea band living at the village named, and whose people claimed the country east of the Wabash, from the mouth of Sugar Creek to a point some distance below Terre Haute. "*Me-chin-quam-e-sha*" died in 1822, and was buried at Fort Harrison. Christmas Dagney received a good education under the instruction of the Catholics. He spoke French and English with great fluency, and was master of the dialects of the several Wabash tribes. For many years he was government interpreter at Fort Harrison, and subsequently Indian agent, having the superintendency of the Wabash Miami, whom he conducted westward. On the 16th of February, 1819, he was married to "Mary Ann Isaacs," of the Brothertown Indians, who had been spending a few weeks at the mission house of Isaac McCoy, situated on Raccoon Creek,—or *Pishewa*, as it was called by the Indians,—a few miles above Armsburg. The marriage was performed by Mr. McCoy "in the presence of our Indian neighbors, who were invited to attend the ceremony. And we had the happiness to have twenty-three of the natives partake of a meal prepared on the occasion." *Vide* page 64 in his book, before quoted. This was, doubtless, the first marriage that was celebrated after the formality of our laws within the present limits of Parke country. By the terms of the treaty at St. Mary's, concluded on the 2d of October, 1818, one section of land was reserved for the exclusive use of Mr. Dagney, and he went to Washington and selected a section that included the village of Armsburg, which at that time was the county seat, and consisted of a row of log houses formed out of sugar-tree logs and built continuously together, from which circumstance it derived the name of "Stringtown." As a speculation the venture was not successful, for the seat of justice was removed to Rockville, and town lots at Stringtown ceased to have even a prospective value. Mr. Dagney's family occupied the reservation as a farm until about 1846. Mr. Dagney died in 1848, at Coldwater Grove, Kansas. Her second husband was Baptise Peoria. Mrs. Baptise Peoria had superior opportunities to acquire an extensive knowledge of the Wabash tribes between Vincennes and Fort Wayne, as she lived on the Wabash from 1817 until 1846. She is now living at Paola, Kansas, where the author met her in November, 1878.

Mississippi from whence their warlike progenitors had come nearly two centuries before.

From Westport the Mississinewas were conducted to a place near the present village of Lowisburg, Kansas, in the county named (Miami) after the tribe. Here they suffered greatly. Nearly one third of their number died the first year. They were homesick and disconsolate to the last degree. "Strong men would actually weep, as their thoughts recurred to their dear old homes in Indiana, whither many of them would make journeys, barefooted, begging their way, and submitting to the imprecations hurled from the door of the white man upon them as they asked for a crust of bread. They wanted to die to forget their miseries." "I have seen," says Mrs. Mary Baptiste to the author, "mothers and fathers give their little children away to others of the tribe for adoption, and after singing their funeral songs, and joining in the solemn dance of death, go calmly away from the assemblage, to be seen no more alive. The Miamis could not be reconciled to the prairie winds of Kansas; they longed for the woods and groves that gave a partial shade to the flashing waters of the *Wah-pe-sha*."\*

The Wea and Piankeshaw bands preceded the Mississinewas to the westward. They had become reduced to a wretched community of about two hundred and fifty souls, and they suffered severely during the civil war, in Kansas. The Miamis, Weas, Piankeshaws, and the remaining fragments of the Kaskaskias, containing under that name what yet remained of the several subdivisions of the old Illini confederacy, were gathered together by Baptiste Peoria, and consolidated under the title of The Confederated Tribes.† This

\*The peculiar sound with which Mrs. Baptiste gave the Miami pronunciation of Wabash is difficult to express in mere letters. The principal accent is on the first syllable, the minor accent on the last, while the second syllable is but slightly sounded. The word means "white" in both the Miami and Peoria dialects. In treating upon the derivation of the word Wabash (p. 100), the manuscript containing the statements of Mrs. Baptiste was overlooked.

†This remarkable man was the son of a daughter of a sub-chief of the Peoria tribe. He was born, according to the best information, in 1793, near the confluence of the Kankakee and Maple, as the Des Plaines River was called by the Illinois Indians and the French respectively. His reputed father was a French Canadian trader living with this tribe, and whose name was Baptiste. Young Peoria was called Batticy by his mother. Later in life he was known as Baptiste the Peoria, and finally as Baptiste Peoria. The people of his tribe gave the name a liquid sound, and pronounced it as if it were spelled Paola. The county seat of Miami county, Kansas, is named after him. He was a man of large frame, active, and possessed of great strength and courage. Like Keokuk, the great chief of the Sacs and Fox Indians, Paola was fond of athletic sports, and was an expert horseman. He had a ready command both of the French Canadian and the English languages. He was familiar with the dialects of the Pottawatomies, Shawnees, Delawares, Miamis and Kickapoos. These qualifications as a linguist soon brought him into prominence among the Indians, while his known integrity commended his services to the United States government. From the year 1821 to the year 1838 he assisted in the removal of the above-named tribes from Indi-

little confederation disposed of their reservation in Miami county, Kansas, and adjacent vicinity, and retired to a tract of reduced dimensions within the Indian Territory. Since their last change of location in 1867 they have made but little progress in their efforts toward a higher civilization. The numbers of what remains of the once numerous Illinois and Miami confederacies are reduced to less than two hundred persons. The Miamis, like the unfortunate man who has carried his dissipations beyond the limit from which there can be no healthy reaction, seem not to have recovered from the vices contracted before leaving the states, and with some notable exceptions, they are a listless, idle people, little worthy of the spirit that inspired the breasts of their ancestors.

ana and Illinois to their reservations beyond the Mississippi. His duties as Indian agent brought him in contact with many of the early settlers on the Illinois and the Wabash, from Vincennes to Fort Wayne. In 1818, when about twenty-five years of age, Batticy represented his tribe at the treaty at Edwardsville. By this treaty, which is signed by representatives from all the five tribes comprising the Illinois or Illini nation of Indians, viz, the Peorias, Kaskaskias, Mitchigamias, Cahokias and Tamaoris, it appears that for a period of years anterior to that time the Peorias had lived, and were then living, separate and apart from the other tribes named. Treaties with the Indian Tribes, etc., p. 247, government edition, 1837. By this treaty the several tribes named ceded to the United States the residue of their lands in Illinois. For nearly thirty years was Baptiste Peoria in the service of the United States. In 1867 Peoria became the chief of the consolidated tribes of the Miamis and Illinois, and went with them to their new reservation in the northeast corner of the Indian Territory, where he died on the 13th of September, 1873, aged eighty years. Some years before his death he married Mary Baptiste, the widow of Christmas Dagney, who, as before stated, still survives. I am indebted to this lady for copies of the "Western Spirit," a newspaper published at Paola, and the "Fort Scott Monitor," containing obituary notices and biographical sketches of her late husband, from which this notice of Baptiste Peoria has been summarized. Baptiste may be said to be "the last of the Peorias." He made a manly and persistent effort to save the fragment of the Illinois and Miamis, and by precepts and example tried to encourage them to adopt the ways of civilized life.



## CHAPTER XV.

### THE POTTAWATOMIES.

WHEN the Jesuits were extending their missions westward of Quebec they found a tribe of Indians, called Ottawas, living upon a river of Canada, to which the name of Ottawa was given. After the dispersion of the Hurons by the Iroquois, in 1649, the Ottawas, to the number of one thousand, joined five hundred of the discomfited Hurons, and with them retired to the southwestern shore of Lake Superior.\* The fugitives were followed by the missionaries, who established among them the Mission of the Holy Ghost, at La Pointe, already mentioned. Shortly after the establishment of the mission the Jesuits made an enumeration of the western Algonquin tribes, in which all are mentioned except the Ojibbeways and Piankeshaws. The nation which dwelt south of the mission, classified as speaking the pure Algonquin, is uniformly called Ottawas, and the Ojibbeways, by whom they were surrounded, were never once noticed by that name. Hence it is certain that at that early day the Jesuits considered the Ottawas and Ojibbeways as one people.†

In close consanguinity with the Ottawas and Ojibbeways were the Pottawatomies, between whom there was only a slight dialectical difference in language, while the manners and customs prevailing in the three tribes were almost identical.‡ This view was again reasserted by Mr. Gallatin: "Although it must be admitted that the Algonquins, the Ojibbeways, the Ottawas and the Pottawatomies speak different dialects, these are so nearly allied that they may be considered rather as dialects of the same, than as distinct languages."§

This conclusion of Mr. Gallatin was arrived at after a scientific and analytical comparison of the languages of the tribes mentioned.

In confirmation of the above statement we have the speeches of three Indian chiefs at Chicago in the month of August, 1821. During the progress of the treaty, Keewaygooshkum, a chief of the first authority among the Ottawas, stated that "the Chippewas, the Pot-

\* Jesuit Relations for 1666.

† Albert Gallatin's Synopsis of the Indian Tribes, p. 27.

‡ Jesuit Relations.

§ Synopsis of the Indian Tribes, p. 29.

tawatomies and the Ottawas *were originally one nation*. We separated from each other near Michilimackinae. We were related by the ties of blood, language and interest, but in the course of a long time these things have been forgotten," etc.

At the conclusion of this speech, Mich-el, an aged chief of the Chippewas, said: "My Brethren,—I am about to speak a few words. I know you expect it. Be silent, therefore, that the words of an old man may be heard.

"My Brethren,—You have heard the man who has just spoken. We are all descended from the same stock,—the Pottawatomies, the Chippewas and the Ottawas. We consider ourselves as one. Why should we not always act in concert?"

Metea, the most powerful of the Pottawatomie chieftains, in his speech made this statement:

"Brothers, Chippewas and Ottawas,—we consider ourselves as one people, which you know, as also our father\* here, who has traveled over our country."

Mr. Schoolcraft, in commenting on the above statements, remarks: "This testimony of a common origin derives additional weight from the general resemblance of these tribes in person, manners, customs and dress, but above all by their having one council-fire and speaking one language. Still there are obvious characteristics which will induce an observer, after a general acquaintance, to pronounce the Pottawatomies tall, fierce, haughty; the Ottawas short, thick-set, good-natured, industrious; the Chippewas warlike, daring, etc. But the general lineaments, or, to borrow a phrase from natural history, the suite features, are identical.†

The first mention that we have of the Pottawatomies is in the Jesuit Relations for the years 1639–40. They are then mentioned as dwelling beyond the River St. Lawrence, and to the north of the great lake of the Hurons. At this period it is very likely that the Pottawatomies had their homes both north of Lake Huron and south of it, in the northern part of the present State of Michigan. Twenty-six or seven years after this date the country of the Pottawatomies is described as being "about the Lake of the Ilmouek."‡ They were mentioned as being "a warlike people, hunters and fishers. Their country is very good for Indian corn, of which they plant fields, and to which they willingly retire to avoid the famine that is too common in these quarters. They are in the highest degree idolaters, attached to ridiculous fables and devoted to polygamy.

\* Lewis Cass.

† Schoolcraft's Central Mississippi Valley, pp. 357, 360, 368.

‡ Lake Michigan.

We have seen them here\* to the number of three hundred men, all capable of bearing arms. Of all the people that I have associated with in these countries, they are the most docile and the most affectionate toward the French. Their wives and daughters are more reserved than those of other nations. They have a species of civility among them, and make it apparent to strangers, which is very rare among our barbarians.”†

In 1670 the Pottawatomies had collected at the islands at the mouth of Green Bay which have taken their name from this tribe. Father Claude Dablon, in a letter concerning the mission of St. Francis Xavier, which was located on Green Bay, in speaking of this tribe, remarks that “the Pouteouatami, the Ousaki, and those of the Forks, also dwell here, but *as strangers*, the fear of the Iroquois having driven them from their lands, which are between the Lake of the Hurons and that of the Illinois.”‡

In 1721, says Charlevoix, “the Poutewatamies possessed only one of the small islands at the mouth of Green Bay, but had two other villages, one on the St. Joseph and the other at the Narrows.”§

Driven out of the peninsula between lakes Huron and Michigan, the Pottawatomies took up their abode on the Bay de Noquet, and other islands near the entrance of Green Bay. From these islands they advanced southward along the west shore of Lake Michigan. Extracts taken from Hennepin’s Narrative of La Salle’s Voyage mention the fact that the year previous to La Salle’s coming westward (1678), he had sent out a party of traders in advance, who had bartered successfully with the Pottawatomies upon the islands named, and who were anxiously waiting for La Salle at the time of his arrival in the Griffin. Hennepin further states that La Salle’s party bartered with the Pottawatomies at the villages they passed on the voyage southward.

From this time forward the Pottawatomies steadily moved southward. When La Salle reached the St. Joseph of Lake Michigan there were no Pottawatomies in that vicinity. Shortly after this date, however, they had a village on the south bank of this stream, near the present city of Niles, Michigan. On the northern bank was a village of Miamis. The Mission of St. Joseph was here established and in successful operation prior to 1711, from which fact, with other incidental circumstances, it has been inferred that

\* La Pointe.

† Jesuit Relations, 1666-7.

‡ Jesuit Relations, 1670-71.

§ Detroit.



the Pottawatomies, as well as the mission, were on the St. Joseph as early as the year 1700.\*

Father Charlevoix fixes the location of both the mission *and* the military post as being at the *same* place beyond a doubt. "It was eight days yesterday since I arrived at this post, where we have a mission, and where there is a commandant with a small garrison. The commandant's house, which is a very sorry one, is called the fort, from its being surrounded by an indifferent palisado, which is pretty near the case in all the rest, except Forts Chambly and Catarocony, which are real fortresses. We have here two villages of Indians, one of Miamis and the other of Pottawatomies, both of them mostly Christians; but as they have been for a long time without any pastors, the missionary who has lately been sent them will have no small difficulty in bringing them back to the exercise of their religion." †

The authorities for locating the old mission and fort of St. Joseph near Niles are Charlevoix, Prof. Keating and the Rev. Isaac McCoy. Commenting on the remains of the old villages upon the St. Joseph River at the time Long's expedition passed that way, in 1823, the compiler states that "the prairies, woodland and river were rendered more picturesque by the ruins of Strawberry, Rum and St. Joseph's villages, formerly the residence of the Indians or of the first French settlers. It was curious to trace the difference in the remains of the habitations of the red and white man in the midst of this distant solitude. While the untenanted cabin of the

\* Some confusion has arisen from a confounding of the Mission of St. Joseph and Fort St. Joseph with the Fort Miamis. The two were distinct, some miles apart, and erected at different dates. It is plain, from the accounts given by Hennepin, Membre and La Hontan, that Fort Miamis was located on Lake Michigan, at the *mouth* of the St. Joseph. It is equally clear that the Mission of St. Joseph and Fort St. Joseph were *some miles up* the St. Joseph River, and a few miles *below* the "portage of the Kankakee" at South Bend. Father Charlevoix, in his letter of the 16th of August, 1721,—after having in a previous letter referred to his reaching the St. Joseph and going up it toward the fort,—says: "We afterward sailed up twenty leagues before we reached the fort." Vol. 2, p. 94. Again, in a subsequent letter (p. 184): "I departed yesterday from the Fort of the River St. Joseph and sailed up that river about six leagues. I went ashore on the right and walked a league and a quarter, first along the water side and afterward across a field in an immense meadow, entirely covered with copses of wood." And in the next paragraph, on the same page, follows his description of the sources of the Kankakee, quoted in this work on page 77. Here, then, we have the position of Fort St. Joseph and the mission of that name and the two villages of the Pottawatomies and the Miamis, on the St. Joseph River, six leagues *below* South Bend. In Dr. Shea's Catholic Missions, page 423, it is stated that "La Salle, on his way to the Mississippi, had built a temporary fort on the St. Joseph, not far from the portage leading to the The-a-ki-ke"; and Mr. Charles R. Brown, in his Missions, Forts and Trading Posts of the Northwest, p. 14, says that "Fort Miamis, built at the mouth of the St. Joseph's River by La Salle, was afterward called St. Joseph, to distinguish it from (Fort) Miamis, on the Maumee." In this instance neither of these writers follow the text of established authorities.

† Charlevoix' Narrative Journal, pp. 93, 94.

Indian presented in its neighborhood but the remains of an old cornfield overgrown with weeds, the rude hut of the Frenchman was surrounded with vines, and with the remains of his former gardening exertions. The asparagus, the pea vine and the woodbine still grow about it, as though in defiance of the revolutions which have dispersed those who planted them here. The very names of the villages mark the difference between their former tenants. Those of the Indians were designated by the name of the fruit which grew abundantly on the spot or of the object which they coveted most, while the French missionary has placed his village under the patronage of the tutelar saint in whom he reposed his utmost confidence.”\*

The asparagus, the pea-vine and the woodbine preserved the identity of the spot against the encroachments of the returning forests until 1822, when Isaac McCoy established among the Pottawatomies the Baptist mission called *Carey*, out of respect for the Rev. Mr. Carey, a missionary of the same church in Hindostan. “It is said that the Pottawatomies themselves selected this spot for Carey’s mission, it being the site of their old village. This must have been very populous, as the remains of corn-hills are very visible at this time, and are said to extend over a thousand acres. The village was finally abandoned about fifty years ago (1773), but there are a few of the oldest of the nation who still recollect the sites of their respective huts. They are said to frequently visit the establishment and to trace with deep feeling a spot which is endeared to them.”†

On a cold winter night in 1833 a traveler was ferried over the St. Joseph at the then straggling village of Niles. “Ascending the bank, a beautiful plain with a clump of trees here and there upon its surface opened to his view. The establishment of Carey’s mission, a long, low, white building, could be distinguished afar off faintly in the moonlight, while several winter lodges of the Pottawatomies were plainly visible over the plain.”‡

Concerning the Pottawatomie village near Detroit, and also some of the customs peculiar to the tribe, we have the following account. It was written in 1718: §

“The fort of Detroit is south of the river. The village of the Pottawatomies adjoins the fort; they lodge partly under Apaquois, ¶

\* Long’s Second Expedition, vol. 1, pp. 147, 148.

† Long’s Second Expedition, vol. 1, p. 153, McCoy’s History of Baptist Indian Missions.

‡ Hoffman’s Winter in the West, vol. 1, p. 225.

§ Memoir on the Indians between Lake Erie and the Mississippi. Paris Documents, vol. 9, p. 887.

¶ Apaquois, matting made of flags or rushes; from *apee*, a leaf, and *wigquoiam*, a hut. They cover their huts with mats made of rushes platted. Carver’s Travels.

which are made of mat-grass. The women do all the work. The men belonging to that nation are well clothed, like our domiciliated Indians at Montreal. Their entire occupation is hunting and dress; they make use of a great deal of vermilion, and in winter wear buffalo robes richly painted, and in summer either blue or red cloth. They play a good deal at La Crosse in summer, twenty or more on each side. Their bat is a sort of a little racket, and the ball with which they play is made of very heavy wood, somewhat larger than the balls used at tennis. When playing they are entirely naked, except a breech cloth and moccasins on their feet. Their body is completely painted with all sorts of colors. Some, with white clay, trace white lace on their bodies, as if on all the seams of a coat, and at a distance it would be apt to be taken for silver lace. They play very deep and often. The bets sometimes amount to more than eight hundred livres. They set up two poles, and commence the game from the center; one party propels the ball from one side and the others from the opposite, and whichever reaches the goal wins. This is fine recreation and worth seeing. They often play village against village, the Poux\* against the Ottawas or Hurons, and lay heavy stakes. Sometimes Frenchmen join in the game with them. The women cultivate Indian corn, beans, peas, squashes and melons, which come up very fine. The women and girls dance at night; adorn themselves considerably, grease their hair, put on a white shift, paint their cheeks with vermilion, and wear whatever wampum they possess, and are very tidy in their way. They dance to the sound of the drum and sisiquoi, which is a sort of gourd containing some grains of shot. Four or five young men sing and beat time with the drum and sisiquoi, and the women keep time and do not lose a step. It is very entertaining, and lasts almost the entire night. The old men often dance the Medicine.† They resemble a set of demons; and all this takes place during the night. The young men often dance in a circle and strike posts. It is then they recount their achievements and dance, at the same time, the war dance; and whenever they act thus they are highly ornamented. It is altogether very curious. They often perform these things for tobacco. When they go hunting, which is every fall, they carry their apaquois with them, to hut under at night. Everybody follows,

\* The Pottawatomes were sometimes known by the contraction Poux. La Hontan uses this name, and erroneously confounds them with the Puans or Winnebagoes. In giving the coat-of-arms of the Pottawatomes, representing a dog crouched in the grass, he says: "They were called Puants." Vol. 2, p. 84.

† Medicine dance.



men, women and children. They winter in the forest and return in the spring."

The Pottawatomes swarmed from their prolific hives about the islands of Mackinaw, and spread themselves over portions of Wisconsin, and eastward to their ancient homes in Michigan. At a later day they extended themselves upon the territory of the ancient Illinois, covering a large portion of the state. From the St. Joseph River and Detroit their bands moved southward over that part of Indiana north and west of the Wabash, and thence down that stream. They were a populous horde of hardy children of the forests, of great stamina, and their constitutions were hardened by the rigorous climate of the northern lakes.

Among the old French writers the orthography of the word Pottawatomes varied to suit the taste of the writer. We give some of the forms: Poutouatimi,\* Pouteotatamis,† Poutouatamies,‡ Poutewatamis,§ Pautawattamies, Puttewatamies, Pottowottamies and Pottawattamies.¶ The tribe was divided into four clans, the Golden Carp, the Frog, the Crab, and the Tortoise.¶ The nation was not like the Illinois and Miamis, divided into separate tribes, but the different bands would separate or unite according to the scarcity or abundance of game.

\* The word Pottawatomie signifies, in their own language, *we are making a fire*, for the origin of which they have the following tradition: "It is said that a Miami, having wandered out from his cabin, met three Indians whose language was unintelligible to him; by signs and motions he invited them to follow him to his cabin, where they were hospitably entertained, and where they remained until after dark. During the night two of the strange Indians stole from the hut, while their comrade and host were asleep; they took a few embers from the cabin, and, placing these near the door of the hut, they made a fire, which, being afterward seen by the Miami and remaining guest, was understood to imply a council fire in token of peace between the two nations. From this circumstance the Miami called them in his language *Wa-ho-na-ha*, or the fire-makers, which, being translated into the language of the three guests, produced the term by which their nation has ever since been distinguished."

After this the Miamis termed the Pottawatomes their younger brothers; but afterward, in a council, this was changed, from the

\* Jesuit Relations.

† Father Membre.

‡ Joutel's Journal.

§ Charlevoix.

¶ Paris Documents.

¶ Enumeration of the Indian tribes, the Warriors and Armorial Bearings of each Nation, made in 1736. Published in Documentary History of New York.

circumstance that they resided farther to the west; "as those nations which reside to the west of others are deemed more ancient."\*

The Pottawatomies were unswerving in their adherence to the French, when the latter had possession of the boundless Northwest. In 1712, when a large force of Mascoutins and Foxes besieged Detroit, they were conspicuous for their fidelity. They rallied the other tribes to the assistance of the French, and notified the besieged garrison to hold out against their enemies until their arrival. *Makisabie*, the war chief of the Pottawatomies, sent word through Mr. de Vincennes, "just arrived from the Miami country, that he would soon be at Detroit with six hundred of his warriors to aid the French and eat those miserable nations who had troubled all the country." The commandant, M. du Buisson, was gratified when he ascended a bastion, and looking toward the forest saw the army of the nations issuing from it; the Pottawatomies, the Illinois, the Missouris, the Ottawas, the Sacs and the Menominees were there, armed and painted in all the glory of war. Detroit never saw such a collection. "My Father," says the chief to the commandant, "I speak to you on the part of all the nations, your children who are before you. What you did last year in drawing their flesh from the fire, which the Outagamies (Foxes) were about to roast and eat, demands we should bring you our bodies to make you the master of them. We do not fear death, whenever it is necessary to die for you. We have only to request that you pray the father of all nations to have pity on our women and our children, in case we lose our lives for you. We beg you throw a blade of grass upon our bones to protect them from the flies. You see, my father, that we have left our villages, our women and children to hasten to join you. Have pity on us; give us something to eat and a little tobacco to smoke. We have come a long ways and are destitute of everything. Give us powder and balls to fight with you."

Makisabie, the Pottawatomie, said to the Foxes and Mascoutines: "Wicked nations that you are, you hope to frighten us by all the red color which you exhibit in your village. Learn that if the earth is covered with blood, it will be with yours. You talk to us of the English, they are the cause of your destruction, because you have listened to their bad council. . . . The English, who are cowards, only defend themselves by killing men by that wicked strong drink, which has caused so many men to die after drinking it. Thus we shall see what will happen to you for listening to them."†

\* Long's Expedition to the Sources of the St. Peter's River, vol. 1, pp. 91, 92, 93.

† The extracts we have quoted are taken from the official report of Du Buisson.

The Pottawatomies sustained their alliance with the French continuously to the time of the overthrow of their power in the northwest. They then aided their kinsman, Pontiac, in his attempt to recover the same territory from the British. They fought on the side of the British against the Americans throughout the war of the revolution, and their war parties made destructive and frequent raids upon the line of pioneer settlements in Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Ohio and Indiana. In the war of 1812 they were again ranged on the side of the British, with their bloody hands lifted alike against the men, women and children of "the States."

In the programme of Pontiac's war the capture of Post St. Joseph, on the St. Joseph's river of Lake Michigan, was assigned to the Pottawatomies, which was effected as will be hereafter narrated.

It was also the Pottawatomies who perpetrated the massacre at Chicago on the 15th day of August, 1812. Bands of this tribe, from their villages on the St. Joseph, the Kankakee and the Illinois rivers, whose numbers were augmented by the appearance of Metea with his warriors, from their village westward of Fort Wayne, fell upon the forces of Captain Heald, and the defenseless women and children retreating with him after the surrender of Fort Dearborn, and murdered or made prisoners of them all. Metea was a conspicuous leader in this horrible affair.\*

Robert Dixon, the British trader sent out among the Indians during the war of 1812 to raise recruits for Proctor and Tecumseh, gathered in the neighborhood of Chicago, which after the massacre was his place of general rendezvous, nearly one thousand warriors of as wild and cruel savages as ever disgraced the human race. They were the most worthless and abandoned desperadoes whom Dixon had been enabled to collect from among all the tribes he had visited. These accomplices of the British were to be let loose upon the remote settlements under the leadership of the Pottawatomie chief, *Mai-pock*, or *Mai-po*, a monster in human form, who distinguished himself with a girdle sewed full of human scalps, which he wore around his waist, and strings of bear's claws and bills of owls and hawks around his ankles, worn as trophies of his power in arms and as a terror to his enemies.†

relating to the siege of Detroit. The manuscript copy of it was obtained from the archives at Paris, by Gen. Cass, when minister to France, and is published at length in volume III of the History of Wisconsin, compiled by the direction of the legislature of that state by William R. Smith, President of the State Historical Society; a work of very great value, not only to the State of Wisconsin but to the entire Northwest, for the amount of reliable historical information it contains.

\* Hall and McKenney's History of the Indian Tribes of North America, vol. 2, pp. 59, 60.

† McAfee's History of the Late War, pp. 297, 298.



Their manners, like their dialect, were rough and barbarous as compared with other Algonquin tribes. They were not the civil, modest people, an exceptional and christianized band of whom the Jesuits before quoted drew a flattering description.

“It is a fact that for many years the current of emigration as to the tribes east of the Mississippi has been from the north to the south. This was owing to two causes: the diminution of those animals from which the Indians derive their support, and the pressure of the two great tribes,—the Ojibbeways and the Sioux,—to the north and west. So long ago as 1795, at the treaty of Greenville, the Pottawatomies notified the Miamis that they intended to settle upon the Wabash. They made no pretensions to the country, and the only excuse for the intended aggression was that *they were tired of eating fish and wanted meat.*”<sup>\*</sup> And come they did. They bore down upon their less populous neighbors, the Miamis, and occupied a large portion of their territory, impudently and by sheer force of numbers, rather than by force of arms. They established numerous villages upon the north and west bank of the Wabash and its tributaries flowing in from that side of the stream above the Vermilion. They, with the Sacs, Foxes and Kickapoos, drove the Illinois into the villages about Kaskaskia, and portioned the conquered territory among themselves. By other tribes they were called squatters, who justly claimed that the Pottawatomies never had any land of their own, and were mere intruders upon the prior rights of others. They were foremost at all treaties where lands were to be ceded, and were clamorous for a lion’s share of presents and annuities, particularly where these last were the price given for the sale of others’ lands rather than their own.<sup>†</sup> Between the years 1789 and 1837 the Pottawatomies, by themselves, or in connection with other tribes, made no less than thirty-eight treaties with the United States, all of which,—excepting two or three which were treaties of peace only,—were for cessions of lands claimed wholly by the Pottawatomies, or in common with other tribes. These cessions embraced territory extending from the Mississippi eastward to Cleveland, Ohio, and reaching over the entire valleys of the Illinois, the Wabash, the Maumee and their tributaries.<sup>‡</sup>

They also had villages upon the Kankakee and Illinois rivers. Among them we name *Minemaung*, or Yellow Head, situated a

<sup>\*</sup> Official letter to the Secretary of War, dated March 22, 1814.

<sup>†</sup> Schoolcraft’s Central Mississippi Valley, p. 358.

<sup>‡</sup> Treaties between the United States and the several Indian tribes, from 1778 to 1837: Washington, D.C., 1837.

few miles north of Momence, at a point of timber still known as Yellow Head Point; *She-mar-gar*, or the Soldier's Village, at the mouth of Soldier Creek, that runs through Kankakee City, and the village of "Little Rock" or *Shaw-waw-nas-see*, at the mouth of Rock Creek, a few miles below Kankakee City.\* Besides these, the Pottawatomies had villages farther down the Illinois, particularly the great town of *Como*, *Gumo*, or *Gumbo* as the pioneers called it, at the upper end of Peoria Lake. They had other towns on the Milwaukee River, Wisconsin. On the St. Joseph, near Niles, was the village of *To-pen-ne-bee*, the great hereditary chief of the Pottawatomie nation; higher up, near the present village of White Pigeon, was situated *Wap-pe-me-me's*, or White Pigeon's town. Westward of Fort Wayne, Indiana, nine miles, was *Mus-kwa-wa-sepe-otan*, "the town of old Red Wood creek," where resided the band of the distinguished warrior and orator of the Pottawatomies, Metea, whose name in their language signifies *kiss me*.

Finally, the renowned *Kesis*, or the sun, the old friend of General Hamtrauck and the Americans, in a speech to General Wayne at the treaty of Greenville in 1795, said that *his village* "was a day's walk below the Wea towns on the Wabash," referring, doubtless, to the mixed Pottawatomie and Kickapoo town which stood on the site of the old Shelby farm, on the north bank of the Vermilion, a short distance above its mouth.†

The positions of several of the principal Pottawatomie villages have been given for the purpose of showing the area of country over which this people extended themselves. As late as 1823 their hunting grounds appeared to have been "bounded on the north by the St. Joseph (which on the east side of Lake Michigan separated them from the Ottawas) and the Milwaukee,‡ which, on the west side of the lake, divided them from the Menomonees. They spread to the south along the Illinois River about two hundred miles; to the west

\* The location of these three villages of Pottawatomies is fixed by the surveys of reservations to Mine-maung, Shemargar and Shaw-waw-nas-see respectively, secured to them by the second article of a treaty concluded at Camp Tippecanoe, near Logansport, Indiana, on the 20th of October, 1832, between the United States and the chiefs and head men of the Pottawatomie tribe of Indians of the prairie and of the Kankakee. The reservations were surveyed in the presence of the Indians concerned and General Tipton, agent on the part of the United States, in the month of May, 1834, by Major Dan W. Beckwith, surveyor. The reservations were so surveyed as to include the several villages we have named, as appears from the manuscript volumes of the surveys in possession of the author.

† Journal of the Proceedings at the Treaty of Greenville: American State Papers on Indian Affairs, vol. 1, p. 580. The author has authorities and manuscripts from which the location of Kesis' band at the mouth of the Vermilion may be quite confidently affirmed.

‡ Milwaukee.

their grounds extended as far as Rock River, and the Mequin or Spoon River of the Illinois; to the east they probably seldom passed beyond the Wabash.”\* After the Kickapoos and Pottawatomies had established themselves in the valley of the Wabash, it was mutually agreed between them and the Miamis that the river should be the dividing line,—the Pottawatomies and Kickapoos to occupy the west, and the Miamis to remain undisturbed on the east or south side of the stream. It was a hard bargain for the Miamis, who were unable to maintain their rights.†

The Pottawatomies were among the last to leave their possessions in Illinois and Indiana, and it was the people of this tribe with whom the first settlers came principally in contact. Their hostility ceased at the close of the war of 1812. After this their intercourse with the whites was uniformly friendly, and they bore the many impositions and petty grievances which were put upon them by not a few of their unprincipled and unfeeling white neighbors with a forbearance that should have excited public sympathy.

The Pottawatomies owned extensive tracts of land on the Wabash, between the mouth of Pine Creek, in Warren county, and the Fort Wayne portage, which had been reserved to them by the terms of their several treaties with the United States. They held like claims upon the Tippecanoe and other westward tributaries of the Wabash, and elsewhere in northwestern Indiana, eastern Illinois and southern Michigan. These reservations are now covered by some of the finest farms in the states named. The treaties by which such reservations were granted generally contained a clause that debarred the owner from alienating them without having first secured the sanction of the President of the United States. This restriction was designed to prevent unprincipled persons from overreaching the Indian, who, at best, had only a vague idea of the fee simple title to, and value of, real estate. It afforded little security, however, against the wiles of the unscrupulous, and whenever the Indian could be induced by the arts of his “White Brother” to put his name to an instrument, the purport of which, in many instances, he did not at all understand as forever conveying away his possessions, the ratifying signature of the President followed as a matter of department routine. The greater part of the Pottawatomie reservations was retroceded to the United States in exchange either for annuities or for lands west of the Mississippi, and the title disposed of in this way.

\* Long's Second Expedition, vol. 1, p. 171.

† The writer was informed of this agreement by Mary Baptiste.



The final emigration of the Pottawatomies from the Wabash, under charge of Col. Pepper and Gen. Tipton, of Indiana, took place in the summer of 1838. Many are yet living who witnessed the sad exodus. The late Sanford Cox has recorded his impressions of this event in the valuable little book which he published.\* "Hearing that this large emigration, numbering nearly a thousand of all ages and sexes, would pass within eight or nine miles west of La Fayette, a few of us procured horses and rode over to see the retiring band, as they reluctantly wended their way toward the setting sun. It was, indeed, a mournful spectacle to see these children of the forest slowly retiring from the homes of their childhood, where were not only the graves of their loved ancestors but many endearing scenes to which their memories would ever recur as sunny spots along their pathway through the wilderness. They felt that they were bidding a last farewell to the hills, the valleys and the streams of their infancy: the more exciting hunting grounds of their advanced youth; the stern and bloody battle-fields on which, in riper manhood, they had received wounds, and where many of their friends and loved relatives had fallen, covered with gore and with glory. All these they were leaving behind, to be desecrated by the plowshare of the white man. As they cast mournful glances back toward these loving scenes that were rapidly fading in the distance, tears fell from the cheek of the downcast warrior,—old men trembled, matrons wept, the swarthy maiden's cheek turned pale, and sighs and half-suppressed sobs escaped from the motley groups, as they passed along, some on foot, some on horseback, and others in wagons, sad as a funeral procession. I saw several of the aged warriors glancing upward to the sky as if invoking aid from the spirits of their departed sires, who were looking down upon them with pity from the clouds, or as if they were calling upon the great spirit to redress the wrongs of the red man, whose broken bow had fallen from his hand. Ever and anon one of the throng would strike off from the procession into the woods and retrace his steps back to the old encampments on the Wabash, Ell River, or the Tippecanoe, declaring that he would die there rather than be banished from his country. Thus would scores leave the main party at different points on the journey and return to their former homes; and it was several years before they could be induced to join their countrymen west of the Mississippi."

This body, on their westward journey, passed through Danville, Illinois, where they halted several days, being in want of food. The

\* Recollections of the Early Settlement of the Wabash Valley, La Fayette, Ind., 1860, pp. 154, 155.

commissary department was wretchedly supplied. The Indians begged for food at the houses of the citizens. Others, in their extremity, killed rats at the old mill on the North Fork and ate them to appease their hunger. Without tents or other shelter, many of them, with young babes in their arms, walked on foot, as there was no adequate means of conveyance for the weak, the aged or infirm. Thus the mournful procession passed across the state of Illinois.

The St. Joseph band were removed westward the same year. So strong was their attachment to southern Michigan and northern Indiana, that the Federal government invoked the aid of troops to coerce their removal. The soldiers surrounded them, and, as prisoners of war, compelled them to leave. At South Bend, Indiana, was the village of *Chichi-pe Outipe*. The town was on a rising ground near four small lakes, and contained ten or twelve hundred christianized Pottawatomies. Benjamin M. Petit, the Catholic missionary in charge at *Po-ke-ganns* village on the St. Joseph, asked Bishop Bruté for leave to accompany the Indians, but the prelate withheld his consent, not deeming it proper to give even an implied indorsement of the cruel act of the government. But being himself on their route, he afterward consented. The power of religion then appeared. Amid their sad march he confirmed several, while hymns and prayers, chanted in *Ottawa*, echoed for the last time around their lakes. Sick and well were carried off alike. After giving all his Episcopal blessing, Bishop Bruté proceeded with Petit to the tents of the sick, where they baptized one and confirmed another, both of whom expired soon after. The march was resumed. The men, women and elder children, urged on by the soldiers in their rear, were followed with the wagons bearing the sick and dying, the mothers, little children and property. Thus they proceeded through the country, turbulent at that time on account of the Mormon war, to the Osage River, Missouri, where Mr. Petit confided the wretched exiles to the care of the Jesuit Father J. Hoecken.\*

In the year 1846 the different bands of Pottawatomies united on the west side of the Mississippi. A general treaty was made, in which the following clause occurs: "Whereas, the various bands of the Pottawatomie Indians, known as the Chippeways, Ottawas and Pottawatomies, the Pottawatomies of the Prairie, the Pottawatomies of the Wabash, and the Pottawatomies of Indiana, have, subsequent to the year 1820, entered into separate and distinct treaties with the

\* Extract from Shea's Catholic Missions, p. 397.

United States, by which they have been separated and located in different countries, and difficulties have arisen as to the proper distributions of the stipulations under various treaties, and being the same people by kindred, by feeling and by language, and having in former periods lived on and owned their lands in common, and being desirous to unite in one common country and again become one people and receive their annuities and other benefits in common, and to abolish all minor distinctions of bands by which they have heretofore been divided, and are anxious to be known as the POTTAWATOMIE NATION, thereby reinstating the national character; and whereas, the United States are also anxious to restore and concentrate said tribes to a state so desirable and necessary for the happiness of their people, as well as to enable the government to arrange and manage its intercourse with them; now, therefore, the United States and said Indians do hereby agree that said people shall hereafter be known as a nation, to be called the POTTAWATOMIE NATION."

Pursuant to the terms of this treaty, the Pottawatomies received \$850,000, in consideration of which they released all lands owned by them within the limits of the territory of Iowa and on the Osage River in Missouri, or in any state or place whatsoever. Eighty-seven thousand dollars of the purchase money coming to them was paid, by cession from the United States, of 576,000 acres of land lying on both sides of the Kansas River. The tract embraces the finest body of land within the present state of Kansas, and Topeka, the state capital, has since been located nearly in the center of the reservation. While the territory was going through the process of organization, adventurers trespassed upon the lands of the Pottawatomies, sold them whisky, and spread demoralization among them. The squatters who intruded upon the farmer-Indians killed their stock and burned some of their habitations, all of which was borne without retaliation. Notwithstanding the old *habendum* clause inserted in Indian treaties (as a mere matter of form, as may be inferred from the little regard paid to it) that these lands should inure to Pottawatomies, "their heirs and assigns forever," the squatter sovereigns wanted them, and resorted to all the well-known methods in vogue on the border to make it unpleasant for the Indians, who were progressing with assured success from barbarism to the ways of civilized society. The usual result of dismemberment of the reserve followed. The farmer-Indians, who so desired, had their portions of the reserve set off in severalty; the uncivilized members of the tribe had their proportion set off in common. These last, which



were exchanged for money, or lands farther southward, fell into the possession of a needy railroad corporation.

We gather from the several reports of the commissioners on Indian affairs that, in 1863, the tribe numbered 2,274, inclusive of men, women and children, which was an alarming decrease since the census of 1854. The diminution was caused, probably, aside from the casualties of death, by some having returned to their former homes east of the Missouri, while many of the young and wild men of the tribe went to the buffalo grounds to enjoy the exciting and unrestrained freedom of the chase. The farmers raised 3,720 bushels of wheat, 45,000 of corn, 1,200 of oats and 1,000 tons of hay, and had 1,200 horses, 1,000 cattle and 2,000 hogs, as appears from the official report for 1863.

The Catholic school at St. Mary's enumerated an average of ninety-five boys and seventy-five girls in 1863, and in 1866 the total number was two hundred and forty scholars. Of his pupils the superintendent says: "They not only spell, read, write and cipher, but successfully master the various branches of geography, history, book-keeping, grammar, philosophy, logic, geometry and astronomy. Besides this, they are so docile, so willing to improve, that between school-hours they employ their time, with pleasure, in learning whatever *handiwork* may be assigned to them; and they particularly *desire* to become good farmers." The girls, in addition to their studies, are "trained to whatever is deemed useful to good housekeepers and accomplished mothers."

The Pottawatomies attested their fidelity to the government by the volunteering of seventy-five of their young men in the "army of the Union."

In 1867, out of a population of 2,400, 1,400 elected to become citizens of the United States, under an enabling act passed by congress. Of those who became citizens, some did well, others soon squandered their lands and joined the wild band. There are still a few left in Michigan, while about one hundred and eighty remain in Wisconsin.

## CHAPTER XVI.

### THE KICKAPOOS AND MASCOUTINS.

THE Kickapoos and Mascoutins, if there was more than a nominal difference between the two tribes, are here treated of together, for reasons explained farther on in the chapter. The name of the Kickapoos has been written by the French, "Kicapoux," "Kickapous," "Kikapoux," "Quickapous," "Rickapoos," "Kikabu." This tribe has long been connected with the northwest, and have acquired a notoriety for the wars in which they were engaged with other tribes, as well for their persistent hostility to the white race, which continued uninterrupted for more than one hundred and fifty years. They were first noticed by Samuel Champlain, who, in 1612, discovered the "Mascoutins residing near the place called Sakinam," meaning the country of the Sacs, comprising that part of the state of Michigan bordering on Lake Huron, in the vicinity of Saginaw Bay.\*

Father Claude Allouez visited the mixed village of Miamis, Kickapoos and Mascoutins on Fox River, Wisconsin, in the winter of 1669-70. Leaving his canoe at the water's edge he walked a league over beautiful prairies and perceived the fort. The savages, having discovered him, raised the cry of alarm in their villages, and then ran out to receive the missionary with honor, and conducted him to the lodge of the chief, where they regaled him with refreshments, and further honored him by greasing his feet and legs. Every one took their places, a dish was filled with powdered tobacco; an old man arose to his feet, and, filling his two hands with tobacco from the dish, addressed the missionary thus:

"This is well, Black-robe, that thou hast come to visit us; have pity on us. Thou art a Manitou.† We give thee wherewith to

\* Memoir of Louis XIV. and Colbert, Minister of France, on the French Limits in North America: Paris Documents, vol. 9, p. 378, and note by E. B. O'Callaghan, the editor, on p. 293.

† Manitou, with very few changes in form of spelling or manner of pronunciation, is the word used almost universally by the Algonquin tribes to express a spirit or God having control of their destinies. Their Manitous were numerous. It was also an expression sometimes applied to the white people,—particularly the missionaries. At first they regarded the Europeans as spirits, or persons possessing superior intelligence to themselves.

smoke. The Nadoüessious and the Iroquois eat us up; have pity on us. We often are sick, our children die, we are hungry. Listen, my Manitou, I give thee wherewith to smoke, that the earth may yield us corn, that the rivers may furnish us with fish, that sickness no more shall kill us, that famine no longer shall so harshly treat us." At each wish, the old men who were present answered by a great "O-oh!" \*

The good father was shocked at this ceremony, and replied that they should not address such requests to him. Protesting that he could afford them no relief other than offering prayers to Him who was the only and true God, of whom he was only the servant and messenger.†

Father Allouez says in the same letter that four leagues from this village "are the *Kikabou* and *Kitchigamick*, who speak the *same language* with the *Machkouteng*."

The Kickapoos were not inclined to receive religious impressions from the early missionaries. In fact, they appear to have acquired their first notoriety in history by seizing Father Gabriel Ribourde, whom they "carried away and broke his head," as Tonti quaintly expresses it in referring to this ruthless murder. Again, in 1728, as Father Ignatius Guignas, compelled to abandon his mission among the Sioux, on account of the victory of the Foxes over the French, was attempting to reach the Illinois, he, too, fell into the hands of the Kickapoos and Mascoutins, and for five months was held a captive and constantly exposed to death. During this time he was condemned to be burnt, and was only saved through the friendly intervention of an old man in the tribe, who adopted him as a son. While held a prisoner, the missionaries from the Illinois relieved his necessities by sending timely supplies, which Father Guignas used to gain over the Indians. Having induced them to make peace, he was taken to the Illinois missions, and suffered to remain there on parole until November, 1729, when his old captors returned and took him back to their own country;‡ after which nothing seems to have been known concerning the fate of this worthy missionary.

The Kickapoos early incurred the displeasure of the French by

\* The *o-oh* of the Algonquin and the *yo-hah* of the Iroquois (Colden's History of the Five Nations) is an expression of assent given by the hearers to the remarks of the speaker who is addressing them, and is equivalent to *good* or *bravo*! The Indians indulged in this kind of encouragement to their orators with great liberality, drawing out their *o-ohs* in unison and with a prolonged cry, especially when the speaker's utterances harmonized with their own sentiments.

† Jesuit Relations, 1669-70.

‡ Shea's Catholic Missions, p. 379.



committing depredations south of Detroit. A band living at the mouth of the Maumee River in 1712, with thirty Mascoutins, were about to make war upon the French. They took prisoner one Langlois, a messenger, on his return from the Miami country, whither he was bringing many letters from the Jesuit Fathers of the Illinois villages, and also dispatches from Louisiana. The letters and dispatches were destroyed, which gave much uneasiness to M. Du Boisson, the commandant at Detroit. A canoe laden with Kickapoos, on their way to the villages near Detroit, was captured by the Hurons and Ottawas residing at these villages, and who were the allies of the French. Among the slain was the principal Kickapoo chief, whose head, with those of three others of the same tribe, were brought to De Boisson, who alleges that the Hurons and Ottawas committed this act out of resentment, because the previous winter the Kickapoos had taken some of the Hurons and Iroquois prisoners, and also because they considered the Kickapoo chief to be a "*true Outtagamie*"; that is, they regarded him as one of the Fox nation.\*

From the village of Machkoutench, where first Father Claude Allouez, and afterward Father Marquette, found the Kickapoos inhabiting the same village with the Muscotins and Miamis, the Kickapoos and the Muscotins appear to have passed to the south, extending their flanks to the right in the direction of Rock† River, and their left to the southern trend of Lake Michigan. Referring to the country on Fox River about Winnebago Lake, Father Charlevoix says:‡ "All this country is extremely beautiful, and that which stretches to the southward as far as the river of the Illinois is still more so. It is, however, inhabited by two small nations only, who are the Kickapoos and the Mascoutins." Father Charlevoix,§ speaking of Fox River, says: "The largest of these," referring to the streams that empty into the Illinois, "is called *Pisticoui*, and proceeds from the fine country of the Mascoutins."||

\*Extract from M. Du Boisson's official report to the Marquis De Vaudreuil, governor-general of New France, of the siege of Detroit, dated June 15, 1712. This valuable paper is published entire in vol. 3 of Wm. R. Smith's History of Wisconsin, a work that contains many important documents not otherwise accessible to the general public. Indeed, the publications of the Historical Society of Wisconsin, of which Judge Smith's two volumes are the beginning, are the repository of a fund of information of great utility, not only to the people of that state, but to the entire Northwest.

†Rock River—*Assin-Sepe*—was also called Kickapoo River, and so laid down on a map of La Salle's discoveries.

‡Narrative Journal, vol. 1, p. 287.

§Vol. 2, p. 199.

|| "The Fox River of the Illinois is called by the Indians *Pish-ta-ko*. It is the same mentioned by Charlevoix under the name of *Pisticoui*, and which flows as he,

Prior to 1718 the Mascoutins and Kickapoos had villages upon the banks of Rock River, Illinois. "Both these tribes together do not amount to two hundred men. They are a clever people and brave warriors. Their language and manners strongly resemble those of the Foxes. They are the same *stock*. They catch deer by chasing them, and even at this day make considerable use of bows and arrows."\* On a French map, issued in 1712, a village of Mascoutins is located near the forks of the north and south branches of Chicago River.

From references given, it is apparent that this people, like the Miami and Pottawatomies, were progressing south and eastward. This movement was probably on account of the fierce Sioux, whose encroaching wars from the northwest were pressing them in this direction. Even before this date the Foxes, with Mascoutins and Kickapoos, were meditating a migration to the Wabash as a place of security from the Sioux. This threatened exodus alarmed the French, who feared that the migrating tribes would be in a position on the Wabash to effect a junction with the Iroquois and English, which would be exceedingly detrimental to the French interests in the northwest. From an official document relative to the "occurrences in Canada, sent from Quebec to France in 1695, the Department at Paris is informed that the Sioux, who have mustered some two or three thousand warriors for the purpose, would come in large numbers to seize their village. This has caused the outagamies to quit their country and disperse themselves for a season, and afterward return and save their harvest. They are then to retire toward the river Wabash to form a settlement, so much the more permanent, as they will be removed from the incursions of the Sioux, and in a position to effect a junction easily with the Iroquois and the English without the French being able to prevent it. Should this project be realized, it is very apparent that the Mascoutins and Kickapoos will be of the party, and that the three tribes, forming a new village of fourteen or fifteen hundred men, would experience no difficulty in considerably increasing it by attracting other nations thither, which would be of most pernicious consequence."† That the Mascoutins, at least, did go soon after this date toward the lower Wabash is con-

says, through the country of the Mascoutins." Long's Second Expedition, vol. 1, p. 176. The Algonquin word Pish-tah-te-koosh, according to Edwin James' vocabulary, means an antelope. The Pottawatomies, from whom Major Long's party obtained the word Pish-ta-ko, may have used it to designate the same animal, judging from the similarity of the two words.

\* Memoir prepared in 1718 on the Indians between Lake Erie and the Mississippi: Paris Documents, vol. 9, p. 889.

† Paris Documents, vol. 9, p. 619.

clusively shown by the fact of their presence about Juchereau's trading post, which was erected near the mouth of the Ohio in the year 1700.

It is doubtful if either the Foxes or the Kickapoos followed the Mascoutins to the Wabash country, and it is evident that the Mascoutins who survived the epidemic that broke out among them at Juchereau's post on the Ohio soon returned to the north. The French effected a conciliation with the Sioux, and for a number of years subsequent to 1705 we find the Mascoutins back again among the Foxes and Kickapoos upon their old hunting grounds in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin.

The Kickapoos entered the plot of the Mascoutins to capture the post of Detroit in 1712, and the latter had repaired to the neighborhood of Detroit, and were awaiting the arrival of the Kickapoos to execute their purposes, when they were attacked by the confederation of Indians who were friendly toward the French and had hastened to the relief of the garrison.\*

The Mascoutins were called "Machkoutench,"† "Machkouteng," "Maskouteins" and "Masquitens," by French writers. The English called them "Masquattimes,"‡ "Musquitons,"§ "Mascoutins,"|| and "Musquitos," a corruption used by the American colonial traders, and "Meadows," the English synonym for the French word "prairie."¶

The derivation of the name has been a subject of discussion. Father, Marquette, with some others, following the example of the Hurons, rendered it "*fire-nation*," while Fathers Allouez and Charlevoix, with recent American authors, claim that the word signifies a prairie, or "a land bare of trees," such as that which this people inhabit.\*\* The name is doubtless derived from *mus-kor-tence*,†† or *mus-ko-tia*, a prairie, a derivative from *skoutay* or *scote*, the word for fire.‡‡ "The Mascos or Mascoutins were, by the French traders of a more recent day, called *gens des prairies*, and lived and hunted on the great prairies between the Wabash and Illinois Rivers."§§ That

\* History of New France, vol. 5, p. 257.

† Fathers Claude Allouez and Marquette.

‡ George Croghan's Narrative Journal.

§ Minutes of the treaty at Greenville in 1795.

|| Samuel R. Brown's Western Gazetteer.

¶ It was some years after the conquest of the northwest from the French before the name "prairie" became naturalized, as it were, into the English language.

\*\* Charlevoix' Narrative Journal, vol. 1, p. 287. Father Allouez, in the Jesuit Relations between the years 1670 and 1671.

†† Note of Callaghan: Paris Documents, vol. 10.

‡‡ Tanner, Gallatin, Mackenzie and Johnson's vocabularies of Algonquin words.

§§ Manuscript account of this and other tribes, by Major Forsyth, quoted by Drake, in his Life of Black Hawk.



the word *Muskotia* is synonymous with, and has the same meaning as, the word *prairie*, is further confirmed by the fact that the Indians prefixed it to the names of those animals and plants found exclusively on the prairies.\*

Were the Kickapoos and Mascoutins separate tribes, or were they one and the same? These queries have elicited the attention of scholars well versed in the history of the North American Indians, among whom might be named Schoolcraft, Gallatin and Shea. Sufficient references have been given in this chapter to show that, by the French, the Kickapoos and Mascoutins *were regarded* as distinct tribes. If necessary, additional extracts to the same purport could be produced from numerous French documents down to the close of the French colonial war, in 1763, all bearing uniform testimony upon this point.

The theory has been advanced that the Mascoutins and Kickapoos were bands of one tribe, first known to the French by the former name, and subsequently to the English by the latter, under which name alone they figure in our later annals.† This supposition is at variance with English and American authorities. It was a war party of Kickapoos *and* Mascoutins, from their contiguous villages near Fort Ouitanon, on the Wabash, who captured George Croghan, the English plenipotentiary, below the mouth of that river in 1765.‡ Sir William Johnson, the English colonial agent on Indian affairs, in the classified list of Indians within his department, prepared in 1763, enumerates *both* the Kickapoos and Mascoutins, locating them “in the neighborhood of the fort at Wawiaghta, and about the Wabash River.”§ Captain Imlay, “commissioner for laying out lands in the back settlements,”—as the territory west of the Alleghanies was termed at that period,—in his list of westward Indians, classifies the Kickapoos (under the name of Vermilions) and the Muscatines, locating these two tribes between the Wabash and Illinois Rivers. This was in 1792.¶ The distinction between these two tribes was maintained still later, and down to a period subsequent to the year 1816. At that time the Mascoutins were residing on the west bank of the Wabash, between Vincennes and the Tippecanoe River, while their old neighbors, the Kickapoos, were living a short distance above

\* For example, *mus-ko-tia-chit-ta-mo*, prairie squirrel; *mus-ko-ti-pe-neeg*, prairie potatoes. Edwin James' Catalogue of Plants and Animals found in the country of the Ojibbeways. See further references on page 35.

† The Indian Tribes of Wisconsin: Historical Collections of that State, vol. 3, p. 130.

‡ *Vide* his Narrative Journal.

§ Colonial History of New York, vol. 7: London Documents, p. 583.

¶ Imlay's America, third edition, London, 1797, p. 290.

them in several large villages. At this date the Kickapoos could raise four hundred warriors.\* From the authors cited,—and other references to the same effect would be produced but for want of space,—it is evident that the English and the Americans, equally with the French, regarded the Kickapoos and Mascoutins as separate bands or subdivisions of a tribe.

While this was so, the language, manners and customs of the two tribes were not only similar, but the two tribes were almost invariably found occupying contiguous villages, and hunting in company with each other over the same country. "The Kickapoos are neighbors of the Mascoutins, and it seems that these two tribes have always been united in interests."† There is no instance recorded where they were ever arrayed against each other, nor of a time when they took opposite sides in any alliance with other tribes. Another noticeable fact is that, with but one exception, the Mascoutins were never known as such in any treaty with the United States, while the Kickapoos were parties to many. We have seen that the former were occupying the Wabash country in common with the latter as far back, at least, as 1765, when they captured Croghan, until 1816; and in all of the treaties for the extinguishment of the title of the several Indian tribes bordering on the Wabash and its tributaries, the Mascoutins are nowhere alluded to, while the Kickapoos are prominent parties to many treaties at which extensive tracts of country were ceded. No man living, in his time, was better informed than Gen. Harrison,—who conducted these several treaties on behalf of the United States,—of the relations and distinctions, however trifling, that may have existed among the numerous Indian tribes with whom, in a long course of official capacity, he came in contact, either with the pen, around the friendly council-fire, or with the uplifted sword upon the field of hostile encounter. In all his voluminous correspondence during the years when the northwest was committed to his charge the General makes no mention of the Mascoutins

\* Western Gazetteer, by Samuel R. Brown, p. 71. This work of Mr. Brown's is exceedingly valuable for the amount of reliable information it affords not obtainable from any other source. He was with Gen. Harrison in the campaigns of the war of 1812. In the preface to his Gazetteer he says: "Business and curiosity have made the writer acquainted with a large portion of the western country never before described. Where personal knowledge was wanting I have availed myself of the correspondence of many of the most intelligent gentlemen in the west." At the time Mr. Brown was compiling material for his Gazetteer, "the Harrison Purchase was being run out into townships and sections," and Mr. Brown came in contact with the surveyors doing the work, and derived much information from them. The book is carefully prepared, covering a topographical description of the country embraced, its towns, rivers, counties, population, Indian tribes, etc., and altogether is one of the most authentic and useful books relative to "the west," which was attracting the attention of emigrants at the time of its publication.

† Charlevoix' History of New France.

by *that name*, but often refers to "the Kickapoos of the prairies," to distinguish them from other bands of the same tribe who occupied villages in the timbered portions of the Wabash and its tributaries.\*

At a subsequent treaty of peace and friendship, concluded on the 27th of September, 1815, between Governor Ninian Edwards, of Illinois Territory, and the chiefs, warriors, etc., of the Kickapoo nation, *Wash-e-own*, who at the treaty of Vincennes signed as a Mascoutin, was a party to it, and in this instance signed *as a Kickapoo*. No Mascoutins by that name appear in the record of the treaty.†

The preceding facts, negative and direct, admit of the following inferences: that there were two subdivisions of the same nation, known first to the French, then to the English, and more recently to the Americans, the one under the name of Kickapoos and the other as Mascoutines; that they spoke the same language and observed the same customs; that they were living near each other, and always had a community of interest in their wars, alliances and migrations; and that since the United States have held dominion over the territory of the northwest the Kickapoos and Mascoutines have considered themselves as one and the same people, whose tribal relations were so nearly identical that, in all official transactions with the federal government, they were recognized only as Kickapoos. And is it not apparent, after all, that there was only a nominal distinction between these two tribes, or, rather, families of the same tribe? Were not the Mascoutins bands of the Kickapoos who dwelt exclusively on the prairies? It seems, from authorities cited, that this question admits of but one answer.

The destruction that followed the attempt of the Mascoutins to capture Detroit was, perhaps, one of the most remorseless in which white men took a part of which we have an account in the annals of Indian warfare. As before stated, the Muscotins in 1712 laid siege to the Fort, hearing of which the Pottawatomies, with other tribes friendly to the French, collected in a large force for their assistance.

\* The only treaty which the Mascoutins, as such, were parties to was the one concluded at Vincennes on the 27th of September, 1792, between the several Wabash tribes and Gen. Rufus Putnam, on behalf of the United States. Two Mascoutins signed this treaty, viz, *Waush-e-own* and *At-schat-schaw*. Three Kickapoo chiefs also signed the parchment, viz, *Me-an-ach-kah*, *Ma-en-a-pah* and *Mash-a-ras-a*, the Black Elk, and, what is singular, this last person, although a Kickapoo, signs himself to the treaty as "The Chief of *The Meadows*." This treaty was only one of peace and friendship. The text of the treaty is found in the American State Papers, Indian Affairs, vol. 1, p. 388; in Judge Dillon's History of Indiana, edition of 1859, pp. 293, 294, and in the Western Annals, Pittsburg edition, pp. 605, 606. The names of the tribes and of the individual chiefs who participated in it are not given in any of the works cited. They only appear in the copy on file at the War Department and in the original manuscript journal of Gen. Putnam. The author is indebted to Dr. Israel W. Andrews, president of Marietta College, for transcripts from Gen. Putnam's journal.

† Treaties with the Indian Tribes, Washington edition, p. 172.



The Muscotines, after protracted efforts, abandoned the position in which they were attacked, and fled, closely pursued, to an intrenched position on *Presque Isle*, opposite Hog Island, near Lake St. Clair, some distance above the fort. Here they held out for four days against the combined French and Indian forces. Their women and children were actually starving, numbers dying from hunger every day. They sent messengers to the French officer, begging for quarter, offering to surrender at discretion, only craving that their remaining women and children and themselves might be spared the horror of a general massacre. The Indian allies of the French would submit to no such terms. "At the end of the fourth day, after fighting with much courage," says the French commander, "and not being able to resist further, the Muscotins surrendered at discretion to our people, who gave them no quarter. Our Indians lost sixty men, killed and wounded. The enemy lost a thousand souls—men, women and children. All our allies returned to our fort with their slaves (meaning the captives), and their amusement was to shoot four or five of them every day. The Hurons did not spare a single one of theirs."\*

We find no instance in which the Kickapoos or Muscotins assisted either the French or the English in any of the intrigues or wars for the control of the fur trade, or the acquisition of disputed territory in the northwest. At the close of Pontiac's conspiracy, the Kickapoos, whose temporary lodges were pitched on the prairie near Fort Wayne, notified Captain Morris, the English ambassador, on his way from Detroit to Fort Chartes, to take possession of "the country of the Illinois"; that if the Miamis did not put him to death, they themselves would do so, should he attempt to pass their camp.†

Still later, on the 8th of June, 1765, as George Croghan, likewise an English ambassador, on his route by the Ohio River to Fort Chartes, was attacked at daybreak, at the mouth of the Wabash, by a party of eighty Kickapoo and Mascoutin warriors, who had set out from Fort Ouiatanon to intercept his passage, and killed two of his men and three Indians, and wounded Croghan himself, and all the rest of his party except two white men and one Indian. They then made all of them prisoners, and plundered them of everything they had.‡

\* Official Report of M. Du Boisson on the Siege of Detroit.

† Parkman's History of the Conspiracy of Pontiac, 3d single volume edition, p. 474.

‡ The narrative, Journal of Col. George Croghan, "who was sent, at the peace of 1763, etc., to explore the country adjacent to the Ohio River, and to conciliate the Indian nations who had hitherto acted with the French." [Reprinted] from Featherstonhaugh Am. Monthly Journal of Geology, Dec. 1831. Pamphlet, p. 17.

Having thrown such obstacles as were within their power against the French and English, the Kickapoos were ready to offer the same treatment to the Americans; and, when Col. Rogers Clark was at Kaskaskia, in 1778, negotiating peace treaties with the westward Indians, his enemies found a party of young Kickapoos the willing instruments to undertake, for a reward promised, to kill him.

As a military people, the Kickapoos were inferior to the Miamis, Delawares and Shawnees in movements requiring large bodies of men, but they were preëminent in predatory warfare. Parties consisting of from five to twenty persons were the usual number comprising their war parties. These small forces would push out hundreds of miles from their villages, and swoop down upon a feeble settlement, or an isolated pioneer cabin, and burn the property, kill the cattle, steal the horses, capture the women and children, and be off again before an alarm could be given of their approach. From such incursions of the Kickapoos the people of Kentucky suffered severely.\*

A small war party of these Indians hovered upon the skirts of Gen. Harmer's army when he was conducting the campaign against the upper Wabash tribes, in 1790. They cut out a squad of ten regular soldiers of Gen. Harmer by decoying them into an ambushade. Jackson Johonnot, the orderly sergeant in command of the regulars, gave an interesting account of their capture and the killing of his companions, after they were subjected to the severest hunger and fatigue on the march, and the running of the gauntlet on reaching the Indian villages.†

The Kickapoos were noted for their fondness of horses and their skill and daring in stealing them. They were so addicted to this practice that Joseph Brant, having been sent westward to the Maumee River in 1788, in the interest of the United States, to bring about a reconciliation with the several tribes inhabiting the Maumee and Wabash, wrote back that, in his opinion, "the Kickapoos, with the Shawnees and Miamis, were so much addicted to horse stealing that it would be difficult to break them of it, and as that kind of business was their best harvest, they would, of course, declare for war and decline giving up any of their country."‡

\* One of the reasons urged to induce the building of a town at the falls of the Ohio was that it would afford a means of strength against, and be an object of terror to, "our savage enemies, the Kickapoo Indians." Letter of Col. Williams, January 3, 1776, from Boonsborough, to the proprietors of the grant, found in Sketches of the West, by James Hall.

† Sketches of Western Adventure, by M'Lung, contains a summarized account, taken from Johonnot's original narrative, published at Keene, New Hampshire, 1816.

‡ Stone's Life of Joseph Brant, vol. 2, p. 278.

Between the years 1786 and 1796, the Kickapoo war parties, from their villages on the Wabash and Vermilion Rivers, kept the settlements in the vicinity of Kaskaskia in a state of continual alarm. Within the period named they killed and captured a number of men, women and children in that part of Illinois. Among their notable captures was that of William Biggs, whom they took across the prairies to their village on the west bank of the Wabash, above Attica, Indiana.\*

Subsequent to the close of the Pontiac war, the Kickapoos, assisted by the Pottawatomies, almost annihilated the Kaskaskias at a place since called Battle Ground Creek, on the road leading from Kaskaskia to Shawneetown, and about twenty-five miles from the former place.† The Kaskaskias were shut up in the villages of Kaskaskia and Cahokia, and the Kickapoos became the recognized proprietors of a large portion of the territory of the Kaskaskias on the west, and the hunting grounds of the Piankeshaw-Miamis on the east, of the dividing ridge between the Illinois and Wabash Rivers. The principal Kickapoo towns were on the left bank of the Illinois, near Peoria, and on the Vermilion, of the Wabash, and at several places on the west bank of the latter stream.‡

The Kickapoos of the prairie had villages west of Charleston, Illinois, about the head-waters of the Kaskaskia and in many of the groves scattered over the prairies between the Illinois and the Wabash and south of the Kankakee, notable among which were their towns at Elkhart Grove, on the Mackinaw, twelve miles north of Bloomington, and at Oliver's Grove, in Livingston county, Illinois.

These people were much attached to the country along the Vermilion River, and Gen. Harrison had great trouble in gaining their consent to cede it away. The Kickapoos valued it highly as a desirable home, and because of the minerals it was supposed to contain. In a letter, dated December 10, 1809, addressed to the

\* Biggs was a tall and handsome man. He had been one of Col. Clark's soldiers, and had settled near Bellefontaine. He was well versed in the Indians' ways and their language. The Kickapoos took a great fancy to him. They adopted him into their tribe, put him through a ridiculous ceremony which transformed him into a genuine Kickapoo, after which he was offered a handsome daughter of a Kickapoo brave for a wife. He declined all these flattering temptations, however, purchased his freedom through the agency of a Spanish trader at the Kickapoo village, and returned home to his family, going down the Wabash and Ohio and up the Mississippi in a canoe. Historical Sketch of the Early Settlements in Illinois, etc., by John M. Peck, read before the Illinois State Lyceum, August 16, 1832. In 1826, shortly before his death, Mr. Biggs published a narrative of his experience "while he was a prisoner with the Kickapoo Indians." It was published in pamphlet form, with poor type, and on very common paper, and contains twenty-three pages.

† J. M. Peck's Historical Address.

‡ Reynolds' Pioneer History of Illinois, J. M. Peck's Address, and Gen. Harrison's Memoirs.



Secretary of War, by Gen. Harrison, the latter,—referring to the treaty at Fort Wayne in connection with his efforts at that treaty to induce the Kickapoos to release their title to the tract of country bounded on the east by the Wabash, on the south by the northern line of the so-called Harrison Purchase, extending from opposite the mouth of Raccoon Creek, northwest fifteen miles; thence to a point on the Vermilion River, twenty-five miles in a direct line from its mouth; thence down the latter stream to its confluence,—says “he was extremely anxious that the extinguishment of title should extend as high up as the Vermilion River. This small tract [of about twenty miles square] is one of the most beautiful that can be conceived, and is, moreover, believed to contain a very rich copper mine. The Indians were so extremely jealous of any search being made for this mine that the traders were always cautioned not to approach the hills which were supposed to contain it.”\*

In the desperate plans of Tecumseh and his brother, the Prophet, to unite all of the Indian tribes in a war of extermination against the whites, the Kickapoos took an active part. Gen. Harrison made extraordinary efforts to avert the troubles that culminated in the battle of Tippecanoe. The Kickapoos were particularly uneasy; and in 1806 Gen. Harrison dispatched Capt. Wm. Prince to the Vermilion towns with a speech addressed to all the chiefs and warriors of the Kickapoo tribe, giving Capt. Prince further instructions to proceed to the villages in the prairies, if, after having delivered the speech at the Vermilion towns, he discovered that there would be no danger in proceeding beyond. The speech, which was full of good words, had little effect, and “shortly after the mission of Capt.

\* General Harrison's Official Letter: American State Papers of Indian Affairs, vol. 1, p. 726. It was not copper, but a mineral having something like the appearance of silver, that the Indians so jealously guarded. Recent explorations among the bluffs on the Little Vermilion have resulted in the discovery of a number of ancient smelting furnaces, with the charred coals and slag remaining in and about them. The furnaces are crude, consisting of shallow excavations of irregular shape in the hillsides. These basins, averaging a few feet across the top, were lined with fire-clay. The bottoms of the pits were connected by ducts or troughs, also made of fire-clay, leading into reservoirs a little distance lower down the hillside, into which the metal could flow, when reduced to a liquid state, in the furnaces above. The pits were carefully filled with earth, and every precaution was taken to prevent their discovery, a slight depression in the surface of the ground being the only indication of their presence. The mines are from every appearance entitled to a claim of considerable antiquity, and are probably “the silver mines on the Wabash” that figure in the works of Hutchins, Imlay, and other early writers, as the geological formation of the country precludes there being any of the metals as high up or above “Ouatanon,” in the vicinity of which those authors, as well as other writers, have located these mines. The most plausible explanation of the use to which the metal was put is given by a half-breed Indian, whose ancestors lived in the vicinity and were in the secret that, after being smelted, the metal was sent to Montreal, where it was used as an alloy with silver, and converted into brooches, wristbands, and other like jewelry, and brought back by the traders and disposed of to the Indians.

Prince, the Prophet found means to bring the whole of the Kickapoos entirely under his influence. He prevailed on the warriors to reduce their old chief, *Joseph Renard's son*, to a private man. He would have been put to death but for the insignificance of his character."\*

The Kickapoos fought in great numbers, and with frenzied courage, at the battle of Tippecanoe. They early sided with the British in the war that was declared between the United States and Great Britain the following June, and sent out numerous war parties that kept the settlements in Illinois and Indiana territories in constant peril, while other warriors represented their tribe in almost every battle fought on the western frontier during this war.

As the Pottawatomies and other tribes friendly to the English laid siege to Fort Wayne, the Kickapoos, assisted by the Winnebagoes, undertook the capture of Fort Harrison. They nearly succeeded, and would have taken the fort but for one of the most heroic and determined defenses under Capt. (afterward Gen.) Zachary Taylor.

Capt. Taylor's official letter to Gen. Harrison, dated September 10, 1812, contains a graphic account of the affair at Fort Harrison. The writer will here give the version of *Pa-koi-shee-can*, whom the French called *La Farine* and the Americans *The Flour*, the Kickapoo chief who planned the attack and personally executed the most difficult part of the programme.†

First, the Indians loitered about the fort, having a few of their women and children about them, to induce a belief that their presence was of a friendly character, while the main body of warriors were secreted at some distance off, waiting for favorable developments. Under the pretense of a want of provisions, the men and

\* Memoirs of Gen. Harrison, p. 85. A foot-note on the same page is as follows: "Old Joseph Renard was a very different character, a great warrior and perfectly savage—delighting in blood. He once told some of the inhabitants of Vincennes that he used to be much diverted at the different exclamations of the Americans and the French while the Indians were scalping them, the one exclaiming *Oh Lord! oh Lord! oh Lord!*—the other *Mon Dieu! mon Dieu! mon Dieu!*"

† The account here given was narrated to the author by Mrs. Mary A. Baptiste, substantially as it was told to her by "Pa-koi-shee-can." This lady, with her husband, Christmas Dagney, was at Fort Harrison in 1821, where the latter was assisting in disbursing annuities to the assembled Indians. The business, and general spree which followed it, occupied two or three days. La Farine was present with his people to receive their share of annuities, and the old chief, having leisure, edified Mr. Dagney and his wife with a minute description of his attempt to capture the fort, pointing out the position of the attacking party and all the movements on the part of the Indians. La Farine was a large, fleshy man, well advanced in years and a thorough savage. As he related the story he warmed up and indulged in a great deal of pantomime, which gave force to, while it heightened the effect of, his narration. The particulars are given substantially as they were repeated to the author. The lady of whom he received it had never read an account of the engagement.

women were permitted to approach the fort, and had a chance to inspect the fort and its defenses, an opportunity of which the men fully availed themselves. A dark night, giving the appearance of rain, favored a plan which was at once put into execution. The warriors were called to the front, and the women and children retired to a place of safety. La Farine, with a large butcher knife in each hand, extended himself at full length upon the ground. He drove one knife into the ground and drew his body up against it, then he reached forward, with the knife in the other hand, and driving that into the ground drew himself along. In this way he approached the lower block-house, stealthily through the grass. He could hear the sentinels on their rounds within the fortified enclosure. As they advanced toward that part of the works where the lower block-house was situated, La Farine would lie still upon the ground, and when the sentinels made the turn and were moving in the opposite direction, he would again crawl nearer.\* In this manner La Farine reached the very walls of the block-house. There was a crack between the logs of the block-house, and through this opening the Kickapoo placed a quantity of dry grass, bits of wood, and other combustible material, brought in a blanket tied about his back, so as to form a sack. As the preparation for this incendiarism was in progress, the sentinels passed within a very few feet of the place, as they paced by on the opposite side of the block-house. Everything being in readiness, and the sentinels at the farther end of the works, La Farine struck a fire with his flint and thrust it between the logs, and threw his blanket quickly over the opening, to prevent the light from flashing outside, and giving the alarm before the building should be well ablaze. When assured that the fire was well under way, he fell back and gave the signal, when the attack was immediately begun by the Indians at the other extremity of the fort. The lower block-house burned up in spite of all the efforts of the garrison to put out the fire, and for awhile the Indians were exultant in the belief of an assured and complete victory. Gen. Taylor constructed a barricade out of material taken from another building, and by the time the block-house burned the Indians discovered a new line of defenses, closing up the breach by which they expected to effect an entrance.†

\* Capt. Taylor, being suspicious of mischief, took the precaution to order sentinels to make the rounds within the inclosure, as appears from his official report.

† The Indians, exasperated by the failure of their attempt upon Fort Harrison, made an incursion to the Pigeon Roost Fork of White River, where they massacred twenty-one of the inhabitants, many of them women and children. The details of some of the barbarities committed on this incursion are too shocking to narrate. They



In 1819, at a treaty concluded at Edwardsville, Illinois, they ceded to the United States all of their lands. Their claim included the following territory: "Beginning on the Wabash River, at the upper point of their cession, made by the second article of their treaty at Vincennes on the 9th of December, 1809;\* thence running northwestwardly† to the dividing line between the states of Illinois and Indiana;‡ thence along said line to the Kankakee River; thence with said river to the Illinois River; thence down the latter to its mouth; thence in a direct line to the northwest corner of the Vincennes tract,§ and thence (north by a little east) with the western and northern boundaries of the cessions heretofore made by the Kickapoo tribe of Indians, to the beginning. Of which tract of land the said Kickapoo tribe claim a large portion by descent from their ancestors, and the balance by *conquest from the Illinois Nation and uninterrupted possession for more than half a century.*" An examination, extended through many volumes, leaves no doubt of the just claims of the Kickapoos to the territory described, or the length of time it had been in their possession.

With the close of the war of 1812, the Kickapoos ceased their active hostilities upon the whites, and within a few years afterward disposed of their lands in Illinois and Indiana, and, with the exception of a few bands, went westward of the Mississippi. "The Kickapoos," says ex-Gov. Reynolds, "disliked the United States so much that they decided, when they left Illinois that they would not reside within the limits of our government," but would settle in Texas. || A large body of them did go to Texas, and when the

are given by Capt. M'Affe in his History of the Late War in the Western Country, p. 155. The garrison at Fort Harrison was cut off from communication with Vincennes for several days, and reduced to great extremity for want of provisions. They were relieved by Col. Russell. After this officer had left the fort, on his return to Vincennes, he passed several wagons with provisions on their way up to the fort under an escort of thirteen men, commanded by Lieut. Fairbanks, of the regular army. This body of men were surprised and cut to pieces by the Indians, two or three only escaping, while the provisions and wagons fell into the hands of the savages. *Vide* M'Affe, p. 155.

\* At the mouth of Racoon Creek, opposite Montezuma.

† Following the northwestern line of the so-called Harrison Purchase.

‡ The state line had not been run at this time, and when it was surveyed in 1821 it was discovered to be several miles west of where it was generally supposed it would be. The territory of the Kickapoos extended nearly as far east as La Fayette, as is evident from the location of some of their villages.

§ By the terms of the fourth article of the treaty of Greenville the United States reserved a tract of land on both sides of the Wabash, above and below Vincennes, to cover the rights of the inhabitants of that village who had received grants from the French and British governments. In 1803, for the purpose of settling the limits of this tract, General Harrison, on the 7th of June, 1803, at Fort Wayne, concluded a treaty with the Miamis, Kickapoos, Shawnees, Pottawatomies and Delawares. This cession of land became known as the *Vincennes tract*, and its northwest corner extends some twelve miles into Illinois, crossing the Wabash at Palestine.

|| Pioneer History of Illinois, p. 8.

Lone Star Republic became one of the United States the Kickapoos retired to New Mexico, and subsequently some of them went to Old Mexico. Here on these isolated borders the wild bands of Kickapoos have for years maintained the reputation of their sires as a busy and turbulent people.\*

A mixed band of Kickapoos and Pottawatomies, who resided on the Vermilion River and its tributaries, became christianized under the instructions of Ka-en-ne-kuck. This remarkable man, once a drunkard himself, reformed and became an exemplary christian, and commanded such influence over his band that they, too, became christians, abstained entirely from whisky, which had brought them to the verge of destruction, and gave up many of the other vices to which they were previously addicted. Ka-en-ne-kuck had religious services every Sunday, and so conscientious were his people that they abstained from labor and all frivolous pastimes on that day.†

Ka-en-ne-kuck's discourses were replete with religious thought, and advice given in accordance with the precepts of the Bible, and are more interesting because they were the utterances of an uneducated Indian, who is believed to have done more, in his sphere of action, in the cause of temperance and other moral reforms, than any other person has been able to accomplish among the Indians, although armed with all the power that education and talent could confer.

Ka-en-ne-kuck's band, numbering about two hundred persons, migrated to Kansas, and settled upon a reservation within the present limits of Jackson and Brown counties, where the survivors, and the immediate descendants of those who have since died, are now residing upon their farms. Their well-cultivated fields and their uniform good conduct attest the lasting effect of Ka-en-ne-kuck's teachings.

The wild bands have always been troublesome upon the southwestern borders, plundering upon all sides, making inroads into the settlements, killing stock and stealing horses. Every now and then

\* In 1854 a band of them were found by Col. Marcy, living near Fort Arbuckle. He says of them: "They are intelligent, active and brave; they frequently visit and traffic with the prairie Indians, and have no fear of meeting these people in battle, provided the odds are not more than six to one against them." Marcy's *Thirty Years of Army Life on the Border*, p. 95.

† One of Ka-en-ne-kuck's sermons was delivered at Danville, Illinois, on the 17th of July, 1831, to his own tribe, and a large concourse of citizens who asked permission to be present. The sermon was delivered in the Kickapoo dialect, interpreted into English, sentence at a time as spoken by the orator, by Gurdeon S. Hubbard, who spoke the Kickapoo as well as the Pottawatomie dialect with great fluency. The sermon was taken down in writing by Solomon Banta, a lawyer then living in Danville, and forwarded by him and Col. Hubbard to Judge James Hall, at Vandalia, Illinois, and published in the October number (1831) of his "Illinois Monthly Magazine."

their depredations form the subject of items for the current newspapers of the day. For years the government has failed in efforts to induce the wild band to remove to some point within the Indian Territory, where they might be restrained from annoying the border settlements of Texas and New Mexico. Some years ago a part of the semi-civilized Kickapoos in Kansas, preferring their old wild life to the ways of civilized society, left Kansas and joined the bands to the southwest. These last, after twelve years' roving in quest of plunder, were induced to return, and in 1875 they were settled in the Indian Territory and supplied with the necessary implements and provisions to enable them to go to work and earn an honest living. In this commendable effort at reform they are now making very satisfactory progress.\* In 1875 the number of civilized Kickapoos within the Kansas agency was three hundred and eight-five, while the wild or Mexican band numbered four hundred and twenty, as appears from the official report on Indian affairs for that year.

As compared with other Indians, the Kickapoos were industrious, intelligent, and cleanly in their habits, and were better armed and clothed than the other tribes.† The men, as a rule, were tall, sinewy and active; the women were lithe, and many of them by no means lacking in beauty. Their dialect was soft and liquid, as compared with the rough and guttural language of the Pottawatomies.‡ They kept aloof from the white people, as a rule, and in this way preserved their characteristics, and contracted fewer of the vices of the white man than other tribes. Their numbers were never great, as compared with the Miamis or Pottawatomies; however, they made up for the deficiency in this respect by the energy of their movements.

In language, manners and customs the Kickapoos bore a very close resemblance to the Sac and Fox Indians, whose allies they generally were, and with whom they have by some writers been confounded.

\* Report of Commissioner on Indian Affairs for the year 1875.

† Reynolds' Pioneer History of Illinois.

‡ Statement of Col. Hubbard to the writer.



## CHAPTER XVII.

### THE SHAWNEES AND DELAWARES.

THE SHAWNEES were a branch of the Algonquin family, and in manners and customs bore a strong resemblance to the Delawares. They were the Bedouins of the wilderness, and their wanderings form a notable instance in the history of the nomadic races of North America. Before the arrival of the Europeans the Shawnees lived on the shores of the great lakes eastward of Cleveland. At that time the principal Iroquois villages were on the northern side of the lakes, above Montreal, and this tribe was under a species of subjection to the Adirondacks, the original tribe from whence the several Algonquin tribes are alleged to have sprung,\* and made "the planting of corn their business."

"The Adirondacks, however, valued themselves as delighting in a more manly employment, and despised the Iroquois in following a business which they thought only fit for women. But it once happened that game failed the Adirondacks, which made them desire some of the young men of the Iroquois to assist them in hunting. These young men soon became much more expert in hunting, and able to endure fatigues, than the Adirondacks expected or desired; in short, they became jealous of them, and one night murdered all the young men they had with them." The chiefs of the Iroquois complained, but the Adirondacks treated their remonstrances with contempt, without being apprehensive of the resentment of the Iroquois, "for they looked upon them as women."

The Iroquois determined on revenge, and the Adirondacks, hearing of it, declared war. The Iroquois made but feeble resistance, and were forced to leave their country and fly to the south shores of the lakes, where they ever afterward lived. "Their chiefs, in order to raise their people's spirits, turned them against the *Satanas*, a less warlike nation, who then lived on the shores of the lakes." The Iroquois soon subdued the *Satanas*, and drove them from their country.†

\* Adirondack is the Iroquois name for Algonquin.

† Colden's History of the Five Nations, pp. 22, 23. The Shawnees were known to the Iroquois by the name of *Satanas*. Same authority.

In 1632 the Shawnees were on the south side of the Delaware.\* From this time the Iroquois pursued them, each year driving them farther southward. Forty years later they were on the Tennessee, and Father Marquette, in speaking of them, calls them Chaouanons, which was the Illinois word for southerners, or people from the south, so termed because they lived to the south of the Illinois cantons. The Iroquois still waged war upon the Shawnees, driving them to the extremities mentioned in the extracts quoted from Father Marquette's journal.† To escape further molestation from the Iroquois, the Shawnees continued a more southern course, and some of their bands penetrated the extreme southern states. The Suwanee River, in Florida, derived its name from the fact that the Shawnees once lived upon its banks. Black Hoof, the renowned chief of this tribe, was born in Florida, and informed Gen. Harrison, with whom for many years he was upon terms of intimacy, that he had often bathed in the sea.

"It is well known that they were at a place which still bears their name‡ on the Ohio, a few miles below the mouth of the Wabash, some time before the commencement of the revolutionary war, where they remained before their removal to the Sciota, where they were found in the year 1774 by Gov. Dunmore. Their removal from Florida was a necessity, and their progress from thence a flight rather than a deliberate march. This is evident from their appearance when they presented themselves upon the Ohio and claimed protection of the Miamis. They are represented by the chiefs of the Miamis and Delawares as supplicants for protection, not against the Iroquois, but against the Creeks and Seminoles, or some other southern tribe, who had driven them from Florida, and they are said to have been literally *sans provant et sans culottes* [hungry and naked].§

After their dispersion by the Iroquois, remnants of the tribe were found in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Pennsylvania, but after the return of the main body from the south, they became once more united, the Pennsylvania band leaving that colony about the same time that the Delawares did. During the forty years following that period, the whole tribe was in a state of perpetual war with America, either as British colonies or as independent states. By the treaty of

\* De Laet.

† *Vide* p. 49 of this work.

‡ Shawneetown, Illinois.

§ Gen. Harrison's Historical Address, pp. 30, 31. This history of the Shawnees, says Gen. Harrison, was brought forward at a council at Vincennes in 1810, to resist the pretensions of Tecumseh to an interference with the Miamis in the disposal of their lands, and however galling the reference to these facts must have been to Tecumseh, he was unable to deny them.

Greenville, they lost nearly all the territory they had been permitted to occupy north of the Ohio.\*

In 1819 they were divided into four tribes,—the Pequa,† the Mequachake, the Chillicothe, and the Kiskapoke. The latter tribe was the one to which Tecumseh belonged. They were always hostile to the United States, and joined every coalition against the government. In 1806 they separated from the rest of the tribe, and took up their residence at Greenville. Soon afterward they removed to their former place of residence on Tippecanoe Creek, Indiana.‡

At the close of Gen. Wayne's campaign, a large body of the Shawnees settled near Cape Girardeau, Missouri, upon a tract of land granted to them and the Delawares in 1793, by Baron de Carondelet, governor of the Spanish provinces west of the Mississippi.§

From their towns in eastern Ohio, the Shawnees spread north and westward to the headwaters of the Big and Little Miamis, the St. Mary's, and the Au Glaize, and for quite a distance down the Maumee. They had extensive cultivated fields upon these streams, which, with their villages, were destroyed by Gen. Wayne on his return from the victorious engagement with the confederated tribes on the field of "fallen timbers."|| Gen. Harmer, in his letter to the Secretary of War, communicating the details of his campaign on the Maumee, in October, 1790, gives a fine description of the country, and the location of the Shawnee, Delaware and Miami villages, in the neighborhood of Fort Wayne, as they appeared at that early day. We quote: "The savages and traders (who were, perhaps, the worst savages of the two) had evacuated their towns, and burnt the principal village called the *Omee*,¶ together with all the traders' houses. *This* village lay on a pleasant point, formed by the junction of the rivers Omee and St. Joseph. It was situate on the east

\* Gallatin.

† "In ancient times they had a large fire, which, being burned down, a great puffing and blowing was heard among the ashes; they looked, and behold a man stood up from the ashes! hence the name Piqua—a man coming out of the ashes, or made of ashes."

‡ Account of the Present State of the Indian Tribes Inhabiting Ohio: *Archæologia Americana*, vol. 1, pp. 274, 275. Mr. Johnson is in error in locating this band upon the Tippecanoe. *The prophets' town* was upon the west bank of the Wabash, near the mouth of the Tippecanoe.

§ Treaties with the Several Indian Tribes, etc.: Government edition, 1837. The Shawnees and Delawares relinquished their title to their Spanish grant by a treaty concluded between them and the United States on the 26th of October, 1832.

|| "The army returned to this place [Fort Defiance] on the 27th, by easy marches, laying waste to the villages and corn-fields for about fifty miles on each side of the Miami [Maumee]. There remains yet a great number of villages and a great quantity of corn to be consumed or destroyed upon the Au Glaize and Miami above this place, which will be effected in a few days." Gen. Wayne to the Secretary of War: *American State Papers on Indian Affairs*, vol. 1, p. 491.

¶ The Miami village.



bank of the latter, opposite the mouth of St. Mary, and had for a long time past been the rendezvous of a set of Indian desperadoes, who infested the settlements, and stained the Ohio and parts adjacent with the blood of defenseless inhabitants. This day we advanced nearly the same distance, and kept nearly the same course as yesterday; we encamped within six miles of the object, and on Sunday, the 17th, entered the ruins of the Omeë town, or French village, as part of it is called. Appearances confirmed accounts I had received of the consternation into which the savages and their trading allies had been thrown by the approach of the army. Many valuables of the traders were destroyed in the confusion, and vast quantities of corn and other grain and vegetables were secreted in holes dug in the earth, and other hiding places. Colonel Hardin rejoined the army."

"*Besides* the town of *Omeë*, there were several other villages situate upon the banks of three rivers. One of them, belonging to the Omeë Indians, called Kegaïogue,\* was standing and contained thirty houses on the bank *opposite* the principal village. Two others, consisting together of about forty-five houses, lay a few miles up the St. Mary's, and were inhabited by Delawares. Thirty-six houses occupied by other savages of this tribe formed another but scattered town, on the east bank of the St. Joseph, two or three miles north from the French village. About the same distance down the Omeë River, lay the Shawnee town of Chillicothe, consisting of fifty-eight houses, opposite which, on the other bank of the river, were sixteen more habitations, belonging to savages of the same nation. All these I ordered to be burnt during my stay there, together with great quantities of corn and vegetables hidden as at the principal village, in the earth and other places by the savages, who had abandoned them. It is computed that there were no less than twenty thousand bushels of corn, in the ear, which the army either consumed or destroyed."†

The Shawnees also had a populous village within the present limits of Fountain county, Indiana, a few miles east of Attica. They gave their name to Shawnee Prairie and to a stream that discharges into the Wabash from the east, a short distance below Williamsport.

\* *Ke-ki-ong-a*.—"The name in English is said to signify a blackberry patch [more probably a blackberry bush] which, in its turn, passed among the Miamis as a symbol of antiquity." Brice's History of Fort Wayne, p. 23.

† Gen. Harmer's Official Letter. It will be observed that Gen. Harmer treats the French Omeë or Miami village as a separate town from that of *Ke-ki-ong-a*. His description is so minute, and his opportunities so favorable to know the facts, that there is scarcely a probability of his having been mistaken.

In 1854 the Shawnees in Kansas numbered nine hundred persons, occupying a reservation of one million six hundred thousand acres. Their lands were divided into severalty. They have banished whisky, and many of them have fine farms under cultivation. Being on the border of Missouri, they suffered from the rebel raids, and particularly that of Gen. Price in 1864. In 1865 they numbered eight hundred and forty-five persons. They furnished for the Union army one hundred and twenty-five men. The Shawnees have illustrated by their own conduct the capability of an Indian tribe to become civilized.\*

THE DELAWARES called themselves *Lenno Lenape*, which signifies "original" or "unmixed" men. They were divided into three clans: the Turtle, the Wolf and the Turkey. When first met with by the Europeans, they occupied a district of country bounded eastwardly by the Hudson River and the Atlantic; on the west their territories extended to the ridge separating the flow of the Delaware from the other streams emptying into the Susquehanna River and Chesapeake Bay.†

They, according to their own traditions, "many hundred years ago resided in the western part of the continent; thence by slow emigration, they at length reached the Alleghany River, so called from a nation of giants, the Allegewi, against whom the Delawares and Iroquois (the latter also emigrants from the west) carried on successful war; and still proceeding eastward, settled on the Delaware, Hudson, Susquehanna and Potomac rivers, making the Delaware the center of their possessions.‡

By the other Algonquin tribes the Delawares were regarded with the utmost respect and veneration. They were called "fathers," "grandfathers," etc.

"When William Penn landed in Pennsylvania the Delawares had been subjugated and made women by the Iroquois." They were prohibited from making war, placed under the sovereignty of the Iroquois, and even lost the right of dominion to the lands which they had occupied for so many generations. Gov. Penn, in his treaty with the Delawares, purchased from them the right of possession merely, and afterward obtained the relinquishment of the sovereignty from the Iroquois.§ The Delawares accounted for their humiliating relation to the Iroquois by claiming that their assumption of the rôle of women, or mediators, was entirely voluntary on their part.

\* Gale's Upper Mississippi.

† Gallatin's Synopsis of the Indian Tribes, p. 44.

‡ Taylor's History of Ohio, p. 33.

§ Gallatin's Synopsis, etc.

They said they became "peacemakers," not through compulsion, but in compliance with the intercession of different belligerent tribes, and that this position enabled their tribe to command the respect of all the Indians east of the Mississippi. While it is true that the Delawares were very generally recognized as mediators, they never in any war or treaty exerted an influence through the possession of this title. It was an empty honor, and no additional power or benefit ever accrued from it. That the degrading position of the Delawares was not voluntary is proven in a variety of ways. "We possess none of the details of the war waged against the Lenapes, but we know that it resulted in the entire submission of the latter, and that the Iroquois, to prevent any further interruption from the Delawares, adopted a plan to humble and degrade them, as novel as it was effectual. Singular as it may seem, it is nevertheless true that the Lenapes, upon the dictation of the Iroquois, agreed to lay aside the character of warriors and assume that of women."\* The Iroquois, while they were not present at the treaty of Greenville, took care to inform Gen. Wayne that the Delawares were their subjects — "that they had conquered them and put petticoats upon them." At a council held July 12, 1742, at the house of the lieutenant-governor of Pennsylvania, where the subject of previous grants of land was under discussion, an Iroquois orator turned to the Delawares who were present at the council, and holding a belt of waumpum, addressed them thus: "Cousins, let this belt of waumpum serve to chastise you. You ought to be taken by the hair of your head and shaken severely, till you recover your senses and become sober. . . . But how came you to take upon yourself to sell land at all?" referring to lands on the Delaware River, which the Delawares had sold some fifty years before. "We conquered you; we made women of you. You know you are women, and can no more sell land than women; nor is it fit you should have the power of selling lands, since you would abuse it." The Iroquois orator continues his chastisement of the Delawares, indulging in the most opprobrious language, and closed his speech by telling the Delawares to remove immediately. "We don't give you the liberty to think about it. You may return to the other side of the Delaware, where you came from; but we don't know, considering how you had demeaned yourselves, whether you will be permitted to live there."†

The Quakers who settled Pennsylvania treated the Delawares in

\* Discourse of Gen. Harrison.

† Minutes of the Conference at Philadelphia, in Colden's History of the Five Nations.



accordance with the rules of justice and equity. The result was that during a period of sixty years peace and the utmost harmony prevailed. This is the only instance in the settling of America by the English where uninterrupted friendship and good will existed between the colonists and the aboriginal inhabitants. Gradually and by peaceable means the Quakers obtained possession of the greater portion of their territory, and the Delawares were in the same situation as other tribes,—without lands, without means of subsistence. They were threatened with starvation. Induced by these motives, some of them, between the years 1740 and 1750, obtained from their uncles, the Wyandots, and with the assent of the Iroquois, a grant of land on the Muskingum, in Ohio. The greater part of the tribe remained in Pennsylvania, and becoming more and more dissatisfied with their lot, shook off the yoke of the Iroquois, joined the French and ravaged the frontiers of Pennsylvania. Peace was concluded at Easton in 1758, and ten years after the last remaining bands of the Delawares crossed the Alleghanies. Here, being removed from the influence of their dreaded masters, the Iroquois, the Delawares soon assumed their ancient independence. During the next four or five decades they were the most formidable of the western tribes. While the revolutionary war was in progress, as allies of the British, after its close, at the head of the northwestern confederacy of Indians, they fully regained their lost reputation. By their geographical position placed in the front of battle, they were, during those two wars, the most active and dangerous enemies of America.\*

The territory claimed by the Delawares subsequent to their being driven westward from their former possessions, is established in a paper addressed to congress May 10, 1779, from delegates assembled at Princeton, New Jersey. The boundaries of their country, as declared in the address, is as follows: “From the mouth of the Alleghany River, at Fort Pitt, to the Venango, and from thence up French Creek, and by Le Bœuf,† along the old road to Presque Isle, *on the east*. The Ohio River, including all the islands in it, from Fort Pitt to the Ouabache, *on the south*; thence up the River Ouabache to that branch, *Ope-co-mee-cah*,‡ and up the same to the head thereof; from thence to the headwaters and springs of the Great Miami, or Rocky River; thence across to the headwaters and springs of the most northwestern branches of the Scioto River; thence to

\* In the battle of Fallen Timbers there were three hundred Delawares out of seven hundred Indians who were in this engagement: Colonial History of Massachusetts, vol. 10.

† A fort on the present site of Waterford, Pa.

‡ This was the name given by the Delawares to White River, Indiana.

the westernmost springs of Sandusky River; thence down said river, including the islands in it and in the little lake,\* to Lake Erie, *on the west and northwest*, and Lake Erie *on the north*. These boundaries contain the cessions of lands made to the Delaware nation by the Wayandots and other nations,† and the country we have seated our grandchildren, the Shawnees, upon, in our laps; and we promise to give to the United States of America such a part of the above described country as would be convenient to them and us, that they may have room for their children's children to set down upon."‡

After Wayne's victory the Delawares saw that further contests with the American colonies would be worse than useless. They submitted to the inevitable, acknowledged the supremacy of the Caucasian race, and desired to make peace with the victors. At the treaty of Greenville, in 1795, there were present three hundred and eighty-one Delawares,—a larger representation than that of any other Indian tribe. By this treaty they ceded to the United States the greater part of the lands allotted to them by the Wyandots and Iroquois. For this cession they received an annuity of \$1,000.§

At the close of the treaty, Bu-kon-ge-he-las, a Delaware chief, spoke as follows:

Father: || Your children all well understand the sense of the treaty which is now concluded. We experience daily proofs of your increasing kindness. I hope we may all have sense enough to enjoy our dawning happiness. Many of your people are yet among us. I trust they will be immediately restored. Last winter our king came forward to you with two; and when he returned with your speech to us, we immediately prepared to come forward with the remainder, which we delivered at Fort Defiance. All who know me know me to be a man and a warrior, and I now declare that I will for the future be as steady and true a friend to the United States as I have heretofore been an active enemy."¶

This promise of the orator was faithfully kept by his people. They evaded all the efforts of the Shawnee prophet, Tecumseh, and the British who endeavored to induce them, by threats or bribes, to violate it.\*\*

\* Sandusky Bay.

† The Hurons and Iroquois.

‡ Pioneer History, by S. P. Hildreth, p. 137, where the paper setting forth the claims of the Delawares is copied.

§ American State Papers: Indian Affairs, vol. 1.

|| Gen. Wayne.

¶ American State Papers: Indian Affairs, vol. 1, p. 582.

\*\* Bu-kon-ge-he-las was a warrior of great ability. He took a leading part in maneuvering the Indians at the dreadful battle known as St. Clair's defeat. He rose from a private warrior to the head of his tribe. Until after Gen. Wayne's great victory

The Delawares remained faithful to the United States during the war of 1812, and, with the Shawnees, furnished some very able warriors and scouts, who rendered valuable service to the United States during this war.

After the treaty of Greenville, the great body of Delawares removed to their lands on White River, Indiana, whither some of their people had already preceded them.

Their manner of obtaining possession of their lands on White River is thus related in Dawson's Life of Harrison: "The land in question had been granted to the Delawares about the year 1770, by the Piankeshaws, on condition of their settling upon it and assisting them in a war with the Kickapoos." These terms were complied with, and the Delawares remained in possession of the land.

The title to the tract of land lying between the Ohio and White Rivers soon became a subject of dispute between the Piankeshaws and Delawares. A chief of the latter tribe, in 1803, at Vincennes, stated to Gen. Harrison that the land belonged to his tribe, "and that he had with him a chief who had been present at the transfer made by the Piankeshaws to the Delawares, of all the country between the Ohio and White Rivers more than thirty years previous." This claim was disputed by the Piankeshaws. They admitted that while they had granted the Delawares the right of occupancy, yet they had never conveyed the right of sovereignty to the tract in question.

Gov. Harrison, on the 19th and 27th of August, 1804, concluded treaties with the Delawares and Piankeshaws by which the United States acquired all that fine country between the Ohio and Wabash Rivers. Both of "these tribes laying claim to the land, it became

in 1794, he had been a devoted partisan of the British and a mortal foe to the United States. He was the most distinguished warrior in the Indian Confederacy; and as it was the British interests which had induced the Indians to commence, as well as to continue, the war, Buck-on-ge-he-las relied upon British support and protection. This support had been given so far as relates to provisions, arms and ammunition; but at the end of the battle referred to, the gates of Fort Miamis, near which the action was fought, were shut, by the British within, against the wounded Indians after the battle. This opened the eyes of the Delaware warrior. He collected his braves in canoes, with the design of proceeding up the river, under a flag of truce, to Fort Wayne. On approaching the British fort he was requested to land. He did so, and addressing the British officer, said, "What have you to say to me?" The officer replied that the commandant wished to speak with him. "Then he may come here," was the chief's reply. "He will not do that," said the sub-officer; "and you will not be suffered to pass the fort if you do not comply." "What shall prevent me?" "These," said the officer, pointing to the cannon of the fort. "I fear not your cannon," replied the intrepid chief. "After suffering the Americans to insult and treat you with such contempt, without daring to fire upon *them*, you cannot expect to frighten *me*." Buck-on-ge-he-las then ordered his canoes to push off from the shore, and the fleet passed the fort without molestation. A note [No. 2]: Memoirs of Gen. Harrison.



necessary that both should be satisfied, in order to prevent disputes in the future. In this, however, the governor succeeded, on terms, perhaps, more favorable than if the title had been vested in only one of these tribes; for, as both claimed the land, the value of each claim was considerably lowered in the estimation of both; and, therefore, by judicious management, the governor effected the purchase upon probably as low, if not lower, terms than if he had been obliged to treat with only one of them. For this tract the Piankeshaws received \$700 in goods and \$200 per annum for ten years; the compensation of the Delawares was an annuity of \$300 for ten years.

The Delawares continued to reside upon White River and its branches until 1819, when most of them joined the band who had emigrated to Missouri upon the tract of land granted jointly to them and the Shawnees, in 1793, by the Spanish authorities. Others of their number who remained scattered themselves among the Miamis, Pottawatomies and Kickapoos; while still others, including the Moravian converts, went to Canada. At that time, 1819, the total number of those residing in Indiana was computed to be eight hundred souls.\*

In 1829 the majority of the nation were settled on the Kansas and Missouri rivers. They numbered about 1,000, were brave, enterprising hunters, cultivated lands and were friendly to the whites. In 1853 they sold to the government all the lands granted them, excepting a reservation in Kansas. During the late Rebellion they sent to the United States army one hundred and seventy out of their two hundred able-bodied men. Like their ancestors they proved valiant and trustworthy soldiers. Of late years they have almost entirely lost their aboriginal customs and manners. They live in houses, have schools and churches, cultivate farms, and, in fact, bid fair to become useful and prominent citizens of the great Republic.

\*Their principal towns were on the branches of White River, within the present limits of Madison and Delaware counties, and the capital of the latter is named after the "*Muncy*" or "*Mon-o-sia*" band. *Pipe Creek* and *Kill Buck Creek*, branches of White River, are also named after two distinguished Delaware chiefs.

## CHAPTER XVIII.

### THE INDIANS: THEIR IMPLEMENTS, UTENSILS, FORTIFICATIONS, MOUNDS, AND THEIR MANNERS AND CUSTOMS.

BEFORE the arrival of the Europeans the use of iron was but little known to the North American Indians. Marquette, in speaking of the Illinois, states that they were entirely ignorant of the use of iron tools, their weapons being made of stone.\* This was true of all the Indians who made their homes north of the Ohio, but south of that stream metal tools were occasionally met with. When Hernando De Soto, in 1539-43, was traversing the southern part of that territory, now known as the United States, in his vain search for gold, some of his followers found the natives on the Savanna River using hatchets made of copper.† It is evident that these hatchets were of native manufacture, for they were “said to have a mixture of gold.”

The southern Indians “had long bows, and their arrows were made of certain canes like reeds, very heavy, and so strong that a sharp cane passeth through a target. Some they arm in the point with a sharp bone of a fish, like a chisel, and in others they fasten certain stones like points of diamonds.”‡ These bones or “scale of the armed fish” were neatly fastened to the head of the arrows with splits of cane and fish glue.§ The northern Indians used arrows with stone points. Father Rasles thus describes them: “Arrows are the principal arms which they use in war and in the chase. They are pointed at the end with a stone, cut and sharpened in the shape of a serpent’s tongue; and, if no knife is at hand, they use them also to skin the animals they have killed.”|| “The bow-strings were prepared from the entrails of a stag, or of a stag’s skin, which they know how to dress as well as any man in France, and with as many different colors. They head their arrows with the teeth of fishes and stone, which they work very finely and handsomely.”¶

\* Sparks’ Life of Marquette, p. 281.

† A Narrative of the Expedition of Hernando De Soto, by a Gentleman of Elvas; published at Evora in 1557, and afterward translated and published in the second volume of the Historical Collections of Louisiana, p. 149. ‡ Idem, p. 124.

§ Du Pratz’ History of Louisiana: English translation, vol. 2, pp. 223, 224.

|| Kip’s Jesuit Missions, p. 39.

¶ History of the First Attempt of the French to Colonize Florida, in 1562, by René Laudonnière: published in Historical Collections of Louisiana and Florida, vol. 1, p. 170.

Most of the hatchets and knives of the northern Indians were likewise made of sharpened stones, "which they fastened in a cleft piece of wood with leathern thongs."\* Their tomahawks were constructed from stone, the horn of a stag, or "from wood in the shape of a cutlass, and terminated by a large ball." The tomahawk was held in one hand and a knife in the other. As soon as they dealt a blow on the head of an enemy, they immediately cut it round with the knife, and took off the scalp with extraordinary rapidity.†

Du Pratz thus describes their method of felling trees with stone implements and with fire: "Cutting instruments are almost continually wanted; but as they had no iron, which of all metals is the most useful in human society, they were obliged, with infinite pains, to form hatchets out of large flints, by sharpening their thin edge, and making a hole through them for receiving the handle. To cut down trees with these axes would have been almost an impracticable work; they were, therefore, obliged to light fires round the roots of them, and to cut away the charcoal as the fire eat into the tree."‡

Charlevoix makes a similar statement: "These people, before we provided them with hatchets and other instruments, were very much at a loss in felling their trees, and making them fit for such uses as they intended them for. They burned them near the root, and in order to split and cut them into proper lengths they made use of hatchets made of flint, which never broke, but which required a prodigious time to sharpen. In order to fix them in a shaft, they cut off the top of a young tree, making a slit in it, as if they were going to draft it, into which slit they inserted the head of the axe. The tree, growing together again in length of time, held the head of the hatchet so firm that it was impossible for it to get loose; they then cut the tree at the length they deemed sufficient for the handle."§

When they were about to make wooden dishes, porringers or spoons, they cut the blocks of wood to the required shape with stone hatchets, hollowed them out with coals of fire, and polished them with beaver teeth.||

Early settlers in the neighborhood of Thorntown, Indiana, noticed that the Indians made their hominy-blocks in a similar manner. Round stones were heated and placed upon the blocks which were to be excavated. The charred wood was dug out with knives, and

\* Hennepin, vol. 2, p. 103.

† Letter of Father Rasles in Kip's *Jesuit Missions*, p. 40.

‡ Volume 2, p. 223.

§ *Narrative Journal*, vol. 2, p. 126.

|| Hennepin, vol. 2, p. 103.



then the surface was polished with stone implements. These round stones were the common property of the tribe, and were used by individual families as occasion required.\*

"They dug their ground with an instrument of wood, which was fashioned like a broad mattock, wherewith they dig their vines as in France; they put two grains of maize together."†

For boiling their victuals they made use of *earthen* kettles.‡ The kettle was held up by two crotches and a stick of wood laid across. The pot ladle, called by them *mikoine*, laid at the side.§ "In the north they often made use of wooden kettles, and made the water boil by throwing into it red hot pebbles. Our iron pots are esteemed by them as much more commodious than their own."||

That the North American Indians not only used, but actually manufactured, pottery for various culinary and religious purposes admits of no argument. Hennepin remarks: "Before the arrival of the Europeans in North America both the northern and southern savages made use of, and do to this day use, earthen pots, especially such as have no commerce with the Europeans, from whom they may procure kettles and other movables."¶ M. Pouchot, who was acquainted with the manners and customs of the Canadian Indians, states "that they formerly had usages and utensils to which they are now scarcely accustomed. *They made pottery* and drew fire from wood."\*\*

In 1700, Father Gravier, in speaking of the Yazoos, says: "You see there in their cabins neither clothes, nor sacks, nor kettles, nor guns; they carry all with them, *and have no riches but earthen pots*, quite well made, especially *little glazed pitchers*, as neat as you would see in France."†† The Illinois also occasionally used glazed pitchers.‡‡ The manufacturing of these earthen vessels was done by the women.§§ By the southern Indians the earthenware goods were used for religious as well as domestic purposes. Gravier noticed several in their temples, containing bones of departed warriors, ashes, etc.

\* Statements of early settlers.

† Laudonnière, p. 174.

‡ Hennepin, vol. 2, p. 105.

§ Pouchot's Memoirs, vol. 2, p. 186.

|| Charlevoix' Narrative Journal, vol. 2, pp. 123, 124.

¶ Volume 2, pp. 102, 103. This work was written in 1697.

\*\* Pouchot's Memoirs, vol. 2, p. 219.

†† Gravier's Journal, published in Shea's Early Voyages Up and Down the Mississippi, p. 135.

‡‡ Vide p. 109 of this work.

§§ Gravier's Journal, published in Shea's Early Voyages Up and Down the Mississippi, p. 135; also, Du Pratz' History of Louisiana, vol. 2, p. 166.

The American Indians, both northern and southern, had most of their villages fortified either by wooden palisades, or earthen breastworks and palisades combined. De Soto, on the 19th of June, 1541, entered the town of Pacaha,\* which was very great, walled, and beset with towers, and many loopholes were in the towers and wall.† Charlevoix said: "The Indians are more skillful in erecting their fortifications than in building their houses. Here you see villages surrounded with good palisades and with redoubts; and they are very careful to lay in a proper provision of water and stones. These palisades are double, and even sometimes treble, and generally have battlements on the outer circumvallation. The piles, of which they are composed, are interwoven with branches of trees, without any void space between them. This sort of fortification was sufficient to sustain a long siege whilst the Indians were ignorant of the use of fire-arms."‡

La Hontan thus describes these palisaded towns: "Their villages are fortified with double palisadoes of very hardwood, which are as thick as one's thigh, and fifteen feet high, with little squares about the middle of courties."§

These wooden fortifications were used to a comparatively late day. At the siege of Detroit, in 1712, the Foxes and Mascoutins resisted, in a wooden fort, for nineteen days, the attack of a much larger force of Frenchmen and Indians. In order to avoid the fire of the French, they dug holes four or five feet deep in the bottom of their fort.||

The western Indians, in their fortifications, made use of both earth and wood. An early American author remarks: "The remains of Indian fortifications seen throughout the western country, have given rise to strange conjectures, and have been supposed to appertain to a period extremely remote; but it is a fact well known that in some of them the remains of palisadoes were found by the first settlers."¶ When Maj. Long's party, in 1823, passed through Fort Wayne, they inquired of Metea, a celebrated Pottawatomie chief well versed in the lore of his tribe, whether he had ever heard of any tradition accounting for the erection of those artificial mounds which are found scattered over the whole country. "He immediately replied *that they had been constructed by the Indians as fortifica-*

\* Probably in the limits of the present state of Arkansas:

† Account by the Gentleman of Elvas, p. 172.

‡ Narrative Journal, vol. 2, p. 128.

§ Vol. 2, p. 6.

|| Dubuison's Official Report.

¶ Views of Louisiana: Brackenridge, p. 14.

tions before the white man had come among them. He had always heard this origin ascribed to them, and knew three of those constructions which were supposed to have been made by his nation. One is at the fork of the Kankakee and the Des Plaines Rivers, a second on the Ohio, which, from his description, was supposed to be at the mouth of the Muskingum. He visited it, but could not describe the spot accurately, and a third, which he had also seen, he stated to be on the head-waters of the St. Joseph of Lake Michigan. This latter place is about forty miles northwest of Fort Wayne."

One of the Miami chiefs, whom the traders named Le Gros, told Barron\* that "he had heard that his father had fought with his tribe in one of the forts at Piqua, Ohio; that the fort had been erected by the Indians against the French, and that his father had been killed during one of the assaults made upon it."†

While at Chicago, and "with a view to collect as much information as possible on the subject of Indian antiquities, we inquired of Robinson‡ whether any traditions on this subject were current among the Indians. He observed that these ancient fortifications were a frequent subject of conversation, and especially those in the nature of excavations made in the ground. He had heard of one made by the Kickapoos and Fox Indians on the Sangamo River, a stream running into the Illinois. This fortification is distinguished by the name of *Etnataek*. It is known to have served as an intrenchment to the Kickapoos and Foxes, who were met there and defeated by the Pottawatomies, the Ottawas and Chippeways. No date was assigned to this transaction. We understood that the *Etnataek* was near the Kickapoo village on the Sangamo."§

Near the dividing line between sections 4 and 5, township 31 north, of range 11 east, in Kankakee county, Illinois, on the prairie about a mile above the mouth of Rock Creek, are some ancient mounds. "One is very large, being about one hundred feet base in diameter and about twenty feet high, in a conic form, and is said to contain the remains of two hundred Indians who were killed in the celebrated battle between the Illinois and Chippeways, Delawares and Shawnees; and about two chains to the northeast, and the same

\* An Indian interpreter.

† Long's Expedition to the Sources of the St. Peters, vol. 1, pp. 121, 122.

‡ Robinson was a Pottawatomie half-breed, of superior intelligence, and his statements can be relied upon. He died, only a few years ago, on the Au Sable River.

§ Long's Expedition, vol. 1, p. 121. This stream is laid down on Joliet's map, published in 1681, as the *Pierres Sanguines*. In the early gazetteers it is called *Sangamo*: vide Beck's Illinois and Missouri Gazetteer, p. 154. Its signification in the Pottawatomie dialect is "a plenty to eat": Early History of the West and Northwest, by S. R. Beggs, p. 157. This definition, however, is somewhat doubtful.



distance to the northwest, are two other small mounds, which are said to contain the remains of the chiefs of the two parties.”\*

Uncorroborated Indian traditions are not entitled to any high degree of credibility, and these quoted are introduced to refute the often repeated assertion *that the Indians had no tradition* concerning the origin of the mounds scattered through the western states, or that they supposed them to have been erected by a race who occupied the continent anterior to themselves.

These mounds were seldom or never used for religious purposes by the Algonquins or Iroquois, but Penicault states that when he visited the Natchez Indians, in 1704, “the houses of the Sun† are built on mounds, and are distinguished from each other by their size. The mound upon which the house of the Great Chief, or Sun, is built is larger than the rest, and its sides are steeper. The temple in the village of the Great Sun is about thirty feet high and forty-eight in circumference, with the walls eight feet thick and covered with a matting of canes, in which they keep up a perpetual fire.”‡

De Soto found the houses of the chiefs built on mounds of different heights, according to their rank, and their villages fortified with palisades, or walls of earth, with gateways to go in and out.§

When Gravier, in 1700, visited the Yazooos, he noticed that their temple was raised on a mound of earth. || He also, in speaking of the Ohio, states that “it is called by the Illinois and Oumiamis the river of the *Akansea*, because the *Akansea* formerly dwelt on it.”¶ The *Akansea* or *Arkansas* Indians possessed many traits and customs in common with the Natchez, having temples, pottery, etc. A still more important fact is noticed by Du Pratz, who was intimately acquainted with the Great Sun. He says: “The temple is about thirty feet square, and stands on an artificial mound about eight feet high, by the side of a small river. The mound slopes insensibly from the main front, which is northward, but on the other sides it is somewhat steeper.”

According to their own traditions, the Natchez “were at one

\* Manuscript Kankakee Surveys, conducted by Dan W. Beckwith, deputy government surveyor, in 1834. Major Beckwith was intimately acquainted with the Pottawatomies of the Kankakee, whose villages were in the neighborhood, and without doubt the account of these mounds incorporated in his Field Notes was communicated to him by them.

† The chiefs of the Natches were so called because they were supposed to be the direct descendants of a man and woman, who, descending from the sun, were the first rulers of this people.

‡ Annals of Louisiana: Historical Collections of Louisiana and Florida, new series, pp. 94, 95.

§ Account by the Gentleman of Elvas.

|| Early Voyages Up and Down the Mississippi, p. 136.

¶ Idem, p. 120.

time the most powerful nation in all North America, and were looked upon by the other nations as their superiors, and were, on that account, respected by them. Their territory extended *from the River Iberville, in Louisiana, to the Wabash.*”\* They had over five hundred suns, and, consequently, nearly that many villages. Their decline and retreat to the south was owing not to the superiority in arms of the less civilized surrounding tribes, but was due to the pride of their own chiefs, who, to lend an imposing magnificence to their funeral rites, adopted the impolitic custom of having hundreds of their followers strangled at their pyre. Many of the mounds, scattered up and down valleys of the Wabash, Ohio and Mississippi, while being the only, may be the time-defying monuments of the departed power and grandeur of these two tribes.

The Indian manner of making a fire is thus related by Hennepin: “Their way of making a fire, which is new and unknown to us, is thus: they take a triangular piece of cedar wood of a foot and a half in length, wherein they bore some holes half through; then they take a switch, or another small piece of hard wood, and with both their hands rub the strongest upon the weakest in the hole, which is made in the cedar, and while they are thus rubbing they let fall a sort of dust or powder, which turns into fire. This white dust they roll up in a pellet of herbs, dried in autumn, and rubbing them all together, and then blowing upon the dust that is in the pellets, the fire kindles in a moment.”†

The food of the Indians consisted of all the varieties of game, fishes and wild fruits in the vicinity; and they cultivated Indian corn, melons and squashes. From corn they made a preparation called sagamite. They pulverized the corn, mixed it with water, and added a small proportion of ground gourds or beans.

The clothing of the northern Indians consisted only of the skins of wild animals, roughly prepared for that purpose. Their southern brethren were far in advance of them in this respect. “Many of the women wore cloaks of the bark of the mulberry tree, or of the feathers of swans, turkies or Indian ducks. The bark they take from young mulberry shoots that rise from the roots of trees that have been cut down. After it is dried in the sun they beat it to make all the woody parts fall off, and they give the threads that remain a second beating, after which they bleach them by exposing them to the dew. When they are well whitened they spin them about the coarseness of pack-thread, and weave them in the following manner:

\* Du Pratz' History of Louisiana, vol. 2, p. 146.

† Ibid, vol. 2, p. 103.

They plant two stakes in the ground about a yard and a half asunder, and having stretched a cord from the one to the other, they fasten their threads of bark double to this cord, and then interweave them in a curious manner into a cloak of about a yard square, with a wrought border round the edges.”\*

The Indians had three varieties of canoes, elm-bark, birch-bark and pirogues. “Canoes of elm-bark were not used for long voyages, as they were very frail. When the Indians wish to make a canoe of elm-bark they select the trunk of a tree which is very smooth, at the time when the sap remains. They cut it around, above and below, about ten, twelve or fifteen feet apart, according to the number of people which it is to carry. After having taken off the whole in one piece, they shave off the roughest of the bark, which they make the inside of the canoe. They make end ties of the thickness of a finger, and of sufficient length for the canoe, using young oak or any other flexible and strong wood, and fasten the two larger folds of the bark between these strips, spreading them apart with wooden bows, which are fastened in about two feet apart. They sew up the two ends of the bark with strips drawn from the inner bark of the elm, giving attention to raise up a little the two extremities, which they call *pincees*, making a swell in the middle and a curve on the sides, to resist the wind. If there are any chinks, they sew them together with thongs and cover them with chewing-gum, which they crowd by heating it with a coal of fire. The bark is fastened to the wooden bows by wooden thongs. They add a mast, made of a piece of wood and cross-piece to serve as a yard, and their blankets serve them as sails. These canoes will carry from three to nine persons and all their equipage. They sit upon their heels, without moving, as do also their children, when they are in, from fear of losing their balance, when the whole machine would upset. But this very seldom happened, unless struck by a flaw of wind. They use these vessels particularly in their war parties.

“The canoes made of birch bark were much more solid and more artistically constructed. The frames of these canoes are made of strips of cedar wood, which is very flexible, and which they render as thin as a side of a sword-scabbard, and three or four inches wide. They all touch one another, and come up to a point between the two end strips. This frame is covered with the bark of the birch tree, sewed together like skins, secured between the end strips and tied

\* Du Pratz, vol. 2, p. 231; also, Gravier's Voyage, p. 134. The aboriginal method of procuring thread to sew together their garments made of skins has already been noticed in the description of the manners and customs of the Illinois.



along the ribs with the inner bark of the roots of the cedar, as we twist willows around the hoops of a cask. All these seams are covered with gum,\* as is done with canoes of elm bark. They then put in cross-bars to hold it and to serve as seats, and a long pole, which they lay on from fore to aft in rough weather to prevent it from being broken by the shocks occasioned by pitching. They have with them three, six, twelve and even twenty-four places, which are designated as so many seats. The French are almost the only people who use these canoes for their long voyages. They will carry as much as three thousand pounds.”† These were vessels in which the fur trade of the entire northwest has been carried on for so many years. They were very light, four men being able to carry the largest of them over portages. At night they were unloaded, drawn upon the shore, turned over and served the savages or traders as huts. They could endure gales of wind that would play havoc with vessels of European manufacture. In calm water, the canoe men, in a sitting posture, used paddles; in stemming currents, rising from their seats, they substituted poles for paddles, and in shooting rapids, they rested on their knees.

Pirogues were the trunks of trees hollowed out and pointed at the extremities. A fire was started on the trunk, out of which the pirogue was to be constructed. The fire was kept within the desired limits by the dripping of water upon the edges of the trunk. As a part became charred, it was dug out with stone hatchets and the fire rekindled. This kind of canoes was especially adapted for the navigation of the Mississippi and Missouri; the current of these streams carrying down trees, which formed snags, rendered their navigation by bark canoes exceedingly hazardous. It was probably owing to this reason, as well as because there were no birch trees in their country, that the Illinois and Miamis were not, as the Jesuits remarked, “canoe nations;” they used the awkward, heavy pirogue instead.

Each nation was divided into villages. The Indian village, when unfortified, had its cabins scattered along the banks of a river or the

\* “The small roots of the spruce tree afford the *wattap* with which the bark is sewed, and the gum of the pine tree supplies the place of tar and oakum. Bark, some spare wattap and gum are always carried in each canoe, for the repairs which frequently become necessary.” *Vide Henry's Travels*, p. 14.

† The above extracts are taken from the *Memoir Upon the Late War in North America Between the French and English, 1755-1760*, by M. Pouchot; translated and edited by Franklin Hough, vol. 2, pp. 216, 217, 218. Pouchot was the commandant at Fort Niagara at the time of its surrender to the English. He was exceedingly well versed in all that pertained to Indian manners and customs, and his work received the indorsement of Marquis Vaudreuil, Governor of Canada. Of the translation, there were only two hundred copies printed.

shores of a lake, and often extended for three or four miles. Each cabin held the head of the family, the children, grandchildren, and often the brothers and sisters, so that a single cabin not unfrequently contained as many as sixty persons. Some of their cabins were in the form of elongated squares, of which the sides were not more than five or six feet high. They were made of bark, and the roof was prepared from the same material, having an opening in the top for the passage of smoke. At both ends of the cabin there were entrances. The fire was built under the hole in the roof, and there were as many fires as there were families.

The beds were upon planks on the floor of the cabin, or upon simple hides, which they called *appichimon*, placed along the partitions. They slept upon these skins, wrapped in their blankets, which, during the day, served them for clothing. Each one had his particular place. The man and wife crouched together, her back being against his body, their blankets passed around their heads and feet, so that they looked like a plate of ducks.\* These bark cabins were used by the Iroquois, and, indeed, by many Indian tribes who lived exclusively in the forests.

The prairie Indians, who were unable to procure bark, generally made mats out of platted reeds or flags, and placed these mats around three or four poles tied together at the ends. They were, in form, round, and terminated in a cone. These mats were sewed together with so much skill that, when new, the rain could not penetrate them. This variety of cabins possessed the great advantage that, when they moved their place of residence, the mats of reeds were rolled up and carried along by the squaws.†

“The nastiness of these cabins alone, and that infection which was a necessary consequence of it, would have been to any one but an Indian a severe punishment. Having no windows, they were full of smoke, and in cold weather they were crowded with dogs. The Indians never changed their garments until they fell off by their very rottenness. Being never washed, they were fairly alive with vermin. In summer the savages bathed every day, but immediately afterward rubbed themselves with oil and grease of a very rank smell. “In winter they remained unwashed, and it was impossible to enter their cabins without being poisoned with the stench.”

All their food was very ill-seasoned and insipid, “and there prevailed in all their repasts an uncleanness which passed all concep-

\* Extract from Pouchot's Memoirs, pp. 185. 186.

† Letter of Father Marest, Kip's Jesuit Missions, p. 199.

tion. There were very few animals which did not feed cleaner.”\* They never washed their wooden or bark dishes, nor their porringers and spoons.† In this connection William Biggs states: “They‡ plucked off a few of the largest feathers, then threw the duck,—feathers, entrails and all,—into the soup-kettle, and cooked it in that manner.”§

The Indians were cannibals, though human flesh was only eaten at war feasts. It was often the case that after a prisoner had been tortured his body was thrown into “the war-kettle,” and his remains greedily devoured. This fact is uniformly asserted by the early French writers. Members of Major Long’s party made especial inquiries at Fort Wayne concerning this subject, and were entirely convinced. They met persons who had attended the feasts, and saw Indians who acknowledged that they had participated in them. Joseph Barron saw the Pottawatomies with hands and limbs, both of white men and Cherokees, which they were about to devour. Among some tribes cannibalism was universal, but it appears that among the Pottawatomies and Miamis it was restricted to a fraternity whose privilege and duty it was on all occasions to eat of the enemy’s flesh;—at least one individual must be eaten. The flesh was sometimes dried and taken to the villages.||

The Indians had some peculiar funeral customs. Joutel thus records some of his observations: “They pay a respect to their dead, as appears by their special care of burying them, and even of putting into lofty coffins the bodies of such as are considerable among them, as their chiefs and others, which is also practiced among the Accanceas, but they differ in this respect, that the Accanceas weep and make their complaints for some days, whereas the Shawnees and other people of the Illinois nation do just the contrary, for when any of them die they wrap them up in skins and then put them into coffins made of the bark of trees, then sing and dance about them for twenty-four hours. Those dancers take care to tie calabashes, or gourds, about their bodies, with some Indian corn in them, to rattle and make a noise, and some of them have a drum, made of a great *earthen pot*, on which they extend a wild goat’s skin, and beat thereon with one stick, like our tabors. During that rejoicing they threw their presents on the coffin, as bracelets,

\* Charlevoix’ Narrative Journal, vol. 2, pp. 132, 133.

† For a full account of their lack of neatness in the culinary department, *vide* Hennepin, vol. 2, p. 120.

‡ The Kickapoos.

§ Narrative of William Biggs, p. 9.

|| Long’s Expedition to the sources of the St. Peters, vol. 1, pp. 103–106.



pendants or pieces of *earthenware*. When the ceremony was over they buried the body, with a part of the presents, making choice of such as may be most proper for it. They also bury with it some store of Indian wheat, with a *pot* to boil it in, for fear the dead person should be hungry on his long journey, and they repeat the ceremony at the year's end. A good number of presents still remaining, they divide them into several lots and play at a game called the stick to give them to the winner."\*

The Indian graves were made of a large size, and the whole of the inside lined with bark. On the bark was laid the corpse, accompanied with axes, snow-shoes, kettle, common shoes, and, if a woman, carrying-belts and paddles.

This was covered with bark, and at about two feet nearer the surface, logs were laid across, and these again covered with bark, so that the earth might by no means fall upon the corpse.† If the deceased, before his death, had so expressed his wish, a tree was hollowed out and the corpse deposited within. After the body had become entirely decomposed, the bones were often collected and buried in the earth. Many of these wooden sepulchres were discovered by the early settlers in Iroquois county, Illinois. Doubtless they were the remains of Pottawatomies, who at that time resided there.

After a death they took care to visit every place near their cabins, striking incessantly with rods and raising the most hideous cries, in order to drive the souls to a distance, and to keep them from lurking about their cabins.‡

The Indians believed that every animal contained a Manitou or God, and that these spirits could exert over them a beneficial or prejudicial influence. The rattlesnake was especially venerated by them. Henry relates an instance of this veneration. He saw a snake, and procured his gun, with the intention of dispatching it. The Indians begged him to desist, and, "with their pipes and tobacco-pouches in their hands, approached the snake. They surrounded it, all addressing it by turns and calling it their *grandfather*, but yet kept at some distance. During this part of the ceremony, they filled their pipes, and each blew the smoke toward the snake, which, as it appeared to me, really received it with pleasure. In a word, after remaining coiled and receiving incense for the space of half an hour, it stretched itself along the ground in visible good

\* Joutel's Journal: Historical Collections of Louisiana, vol. 1, pp. 187, 188.

† Extract from Henry's Travels, p. 150.

‡ Charlevoix' Narrative Journal, vol. 2, p. 154.

humor. The Indians followed it, and, still addressing it by the title of grandfather, beseeched it to take care of their families during their absence, and also to open the hearts of the English, that that they might fill their (the Indians') canoes with rum.\* This reverence of the Indians for the rattlesnake will account for the vast number of these reptiles met with by early settlers in localities favorable for their increase and security. The clefts in the rocky cliffs below Niagara Falls were so infested with rattlesnakes that the Indians removed their village to a place of greater security.

The Indians had several games, some of which have been already noticed. McCoy mentions a singular occurrence of this nature: "A Miami Indian had been stabbed with a knife, who lingered, and of whose recovery there was doubt. On the 12th of May a party resolved to decide by a game of *moccasin* whether the man should live or die. In this game the party seat themselves upon the earth opposite to each other, while one holds a moccasin on the ground with one hand, and holds in the other a small ball; the ball he affects to conceal in the moccasin, and does either insert it or not, as he shall choose, and then leaves the opposite party to guess where the ball is. In order to deceive his antagonist, he incessantly utters a kind of a sing-song, which is repeated about thrice in a minute, and moving his hands in unison with the notes, brings one of them, at every repetition, to the mouth of the moccasin, as though he had that moment inserted the ball. One party played for the wounded man's recovery and the other for his death. Two games were played, in both of which the side for recovery was triumphant, and so they concluded the man would not die of his wounds."†

The Indians had a most excellent knowledge of the topography of their country, and they drew the most exact maps of the countries they were acquainted with. They set down the true north according to the polar star; the ports, harbors, rivers, creeks, and coasts of the lakes; roads, mountains, woods, marshes and meadows. They counted the distances by journeys and half-journeys, allowing to every journey five leagues. These maps were drawn upon birch bark.‡ "Previous to General Brock's crossing over to Detroit, he asked Tecumseh what sort of a country he should have to pass through in case of his preceding farther. *Tecumseh* took a roll of elm bark, and extending it on the ground, by means of four stones, drew forth his scalping knife, and, with the point, etched upon the

\* Alexander Henry's Travels, p. 176.

† Baptist Missions, p. 98.

‡ La Hontan, vol. 2, p. 13.

bark a plan of the country, its hills, woods, rivers, morasses, a plan which, if not as neat, was fully as accurate as if it had been made by a professional map-maker.\*

In marriage, they had no ceremony worth mentioning, the man and the woman agreeing that for so many bucks, beaver hides, or, in short, any valuables, she should be his wife. Of all the passions, the Indians were least influenced by love. Some authors claim that it had no existence, excepting, of course, mere lust, which is possessed by all animals. "By women, beauty was commonly no motive to marriage, the only inducement being the reward which she received. It was said that the women were purchased by the night, week, month or winter, so that they depended on fornication for a living; nor was it thought either a crime or shame, none being esteemed as prostitutes but such as were licentious without a reward."† Polygamy was common, but was seldom practiced except by the chiefs. On the smallest offense husband and wife parted, she taking the domestic utensils and the children of her sex. Children formed the only bond of affection between the two sexes; and of them, to the credit of the Indian be it said, they were very fond. They never chastised them, the only punishment being to dash, by the hand, water into the face of the refractory child. Joutel noticed this method of correction among the Illinois, and nearly a hundred years later Jones mentions the same custom as existing among the Shawnees.‡

The Algonquin tribes, differing in this respect from the southern Indians, had no especial religion. They believed in good and bad spirits, and thought it was only necessary to appease the wicked spirits, for the good ones "were all right anyway." These bad spirits were thought to occupy the bodies of animals, fishes and reptiles, to dwell in high mountains, gloomy caverns, dangerous whirlpools, and all large bodies of water. This will account for the offerings of tobacco and other valuables which they made when passing such places. No ideas of morals or metaphysics ever entered the head of the Indians; they believed what was told them upon those subjects, without having more than a vague impression of their meaning. Some of the Canadian Indians, in all sincerity, compared the Holy Trinity to a piece of pork. There they found the lean meat, the fat and the rind, three distinct parts that form

\* James' Military Occurrences in the Late War Between Great Britain and the United States, vol. 1, pp. 291, 292.

\* Journal of Two Visits made to Some Nations West of the Ohio, by the Rev. David Jones: Sabin's reprint, p. 75.

† Idem.



the same piece.”\* Their ideas of heaven was a place full of sensual enjoyments, and free from physical pains. Indeed, it is doubtful if, before their mythology was changed by the partial adoption of some of the doctrines of Christianity, they had any idea of *spiritual* reward or punishment.

Wampum, prior to and many years subsequent to the advent of the Europeans, was the circulating medium among the North American Indians. It is made out of a marine shell, or periwinkle, some of which are white, others violet, verging toward black. They are perforated in the direction of the greater diameter, and are worked into two forms, strings and belts. The strings consist of cylinders strung without any order, one after another, on to a thread. The belts are wide sashes in which the white and purple beads are arranged in rows and tied by little leathern strings, making a very pretty tissue. Wampum belts are used in state affairs, and their length, width and color are in proportion to the importance of the affair being negotiated. They are wrought, sometimes, into figures of considerable beauty.

These belts and strings of wampum are the universal agent with the Indians, not only as money, jewelry or ornaments, but as annals and for registers to perpetuate treaties and compacts between individuals and nations. They are the inviolable and sacred pledges which guarantee messages, promises and treaties. As writing is not in use among them, they make a local memoir by means of these belts, each of which signify a particular affair or a circumstance relating to it. The village chiefs are the custodians, and communicate the affairs they perpetuate to the young people, who thus learn the history, treaties and engagements of their nation.† Belts are classified as message, road, peace or war belts. White signifies peace, as black does war. The color therefore at once indicates the intention of the person or tribe who sends or accepts a belt. So general was the importance of the belt, that the French and English, and the Americans, even down as late as the treaty of Greenville, in 1795, used it in treating with the Indians.‡

\* Pouchot's Memoir, vol. 2, p. 223.

† The account given above is taken from a note of the editor of the documents relative to the Colonial History of New York, etc., vol. 9. Paris Documents, p. 556.

‡ The explanation here given will assist the reader to an understanding of the grave significance attached to the giving or receiving of belts so frequently referred to in the course of this work.

## CHAPTER XIX.

### STONE IMPLEMENTS.

THE stone implements illustrated in this chapter are introduced as specimens of workmanship of the comparatively modern Indians, who lived and hunted in the localities where the specimens were found. The author is aware that similar implements have been illustrated and described in works which relate to an exclusively prehistoric race. Without entering into a discussion concerning the so-called "Mound Builders," that being a subject foreign to the scope of this work, it may be stated that some theorists have placed the epoch of the "prehistoric race" quite too far within the boundaries of well-established historical mention, and have assigned to the "Mound Builders" remains and relics which were undoubtedly the handiwork of the modern American Indians.\*

Indeed many of the stone implements, also much of the pottery, and many of the so-called ancient mounds and excavations as well, found throughout the west, may be accounted for without going beyond the era of the North American Indian in quest of an explanation. It is not at all intended here to question the fact of the existence of the prehistoric race, or to deny that they have left more or less of their remains, but the line of demarkation between that race

\* Mr. H. N. Rust, of Chicago, in his extensive collection, has many implements similar to those attributed to prehistoric man, which he obtained from the Sioux Indians of northwestern Dakota, with whom they were in daily use. Among his samples are large stone hammers with a groove around the head, and the handles nicely attached. The round stone, with flattened sides, generally regarded as a relic of a lost race, he found at the door of the lodges of the Sioux, with the little stone hammer, hooded with rawhide, to which the handle was fastened, with which bones, nuts and other hard substances were broken by the squaws or children as occasion required. The appearance of the larger disc, and the well-worn face of the hammer, indicate their long and constant use by this people. The round, egg-shaped stone, illustrated by Fig. 9, supposed to belong to the prehistoric age, Mr. Rust found in common use among this tribe. The manner of fastening the handle is illustrated in the cuts, Figs. 9 and 36. The writer is indebted to Mr. Rust for favors conferred in the loan of implements credited to his collection, as well, also, for his valuable aid in preparing the illustrated portion of this chapter. The other implements illustrated were selected from W. C. Beckwith's collection. The Indians informed Mr. Rust that these clubs (Figs. 8 and 9) were used to kill buffalo, or other animals that had been wounded; as implements of offense and defense in personal encounters; as a walking-stick (the stone being used as a handle) by the dandies of the tribe; and they were carried as a mace or badge of authority in the rites and ceremonies of the societies established among these Indians, which were similar in some respects to our fraternities.

and the modern Indian cannot be traced with satisfaction until after large collections of the remains of both races shall have been secured and critically compared under all the light which a careful examination of historical records will shed upon this new and interesting field of inquiry.

Stone implements are by no means peculiar to North America; they have been found all over the inhabitable world. Europe is especially prolific in such remains. While the material of which they are made varies according to the geological resources of the several countries in which they are found, there is a striking similarity in the shape, size and form of them all. At the present time like implements are in use among some of the South Sea Islanders, and by a few tribes of North American Indians living in remote sections, and enjoying but a limited intercourse with the enlightened world.

The *stone age* marks an important epoch in the progress of races of men from the early stages of their existence toward a higher civilization. After they had passed the stone age, and learned how to manipulate iron and other metals, their advance, as a general rule, has been more rapid.

The implements here illustrated are specimens of some of the more prominent types of the vast number which have been found throughout the valleys of the Maumee, Wabash and Illinois Rivers, and the sections of country drained by their tributaries. They are picked up about the sites of old Indian villages, in localities where game was pursued, on the hillsides and in the ravines where they have become exposed by the rains, and in the furrows turned up by the plowshare. They are the remains of the early occupants of the territory we have described,—testimonials alike of their necessities and their ingenuity, and were used by them until an acquaintance with the Europeans supplied them with weapons and utensils formed out of metals.\*

It will be observed from extracts found in the preceding chapter that our Indians made and used implements of copper and stone, manufactured pottery, some of which was glazed, wove cloth of fiber and also of wool, erected fortifications of wooden palisades, or of palisades and earth combined, to protect their villages from their enemies, excavated holes in the ground, which were used for defen-

\* It may be well to state in this connection that the implements illustrated in this work, except the handled club, Figs. 9 and 36, were not found in mounds or in their vicinity, but were gathered upon or in the immediate neighborhood of places known to the early settlers as the sites of Piankeshaw, Miami, Pottawatomie and Kickapoo villages, and in the same localities where have been found red-stone pipes of Indian make, knives, hatchets, gun-barrels, buckles, flints for old-fashioned fusees, brooches, wristbands, kettles, and other articles of European manufacture.



sive purposes, and erected mounds of earth, some of which were used for religious rites, and others as depositories for their dead. All these facts are well attested by early Spanish, French and American authors, who have recorded their observations while passing through the country. We have also seen in previous chapters that our "red men" cultivated corn and other products of the soil, and were as much an *agricultural* people as is claimed for the "Mound Builders."

The specimens marked Figs. 1, 2 and 3 are samples of a lot of one hundred and sixteen pieces, found in 1878 in a "pocket" on Wm. Pogue's farm, a few miles southeast of Rossville, Vermilion

FIG. 3= $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Vermilion county, Ill.

FIG. 2= $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Vermilion county, Ill.

FIG. 1= $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Vermilion county, Ill.

county, Illinois. Mr. Pogue had cleared off a piece of ground formerly prairie, on which a growth of jack oak trees and underbrush had encroached since the early settlement of the county. This land had never been cultivated, and as it was being broken up, the plow-share ran into the "nest," and turned the implements to view. They were closely packed together, and buried about eight inches below the natural surface of the ground, which was level with the other parts of the field, and had no appearance of a mound, excavation, or any other artificial disturbance. Two of the implements, judging from their eroded fractures, were broken at the time they

were deposited, and one other was broken in two by the plow. The material of which they are composed is white chert. The samples illustrated are taken as an average, in size and shape, of the whole lot, the largest of which is  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches wide by 7 inches long, and the smallest 2 inches wide by nearly 4 inches in length. Some of them are nearly oval, others long and pointed at both ends, in others the "shoulders" are well defined, while, for the most part, they are broadly rounded at one end and pointed at the other. They are all in the rough, and no finished implement was found with or near them. Indeed the whole lot are apparently in an unfinished condition. With very little dressing they could be fashioned into perfect implements, such as the "fleshers," "scrapers," "knives," "spear" and "arrow" heads described farther on. There are no quarries or deposits of flint of the kind known to exist within many miles of the locality where these implements were found. We can only conjecture the uses for which they were designed. We can imagine the owner to have been a merchant or trader, who had dressed them down or procured them at the quarries in this condition, so they would be lighter to carry to the tribes on the prairies, where they could be perfected to suit the taste of the purchaser. We might further imagine that the implement merchant, threatened with some approaching danger, hid them where they were afterward found, and never returned. The eroded appearance of many of the "find" bear witness that the lot were buried a great many years ago.\*

Fig. 4 is an axe and hammer combined. The material is a fine-grained granite. The handle is attached with thongs of rawhide passed around the groove, or with a split stick or forked branch wythed around, and either kind of fastening could be tightened by driving a wedge between the attachment and the surface of the implement, which on the back is slightly concaved to hold the wedge in place.

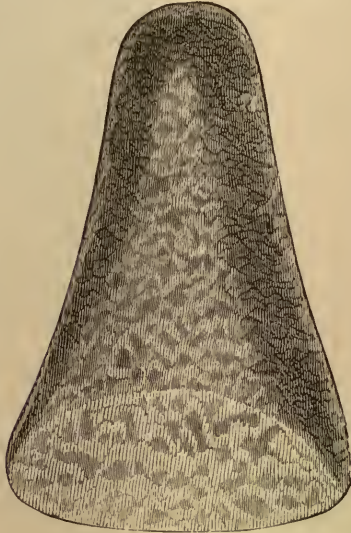
Figs. 5, 6 and 7 are also axes; material, dark granite. Heretofore it has been the popular opinion that these instruments are "fleshers," and were used in skinning animals, cutting up the flesh,

FIG. 4= $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Vermilion county, Ill.

\*The writer has divided the "lot," sending samples to the Historical Societies of Wisconsin and Chicago, and placed others in the collections of H. N. Rust, of Chicago; Prof. John Collett, of Indianapolis; Prof. A. H. Worthen, Springfield, Illinois; Josephus Collett, of Terre Haute, while the others remain in the collection of W. C. Beckwith, at Danville, Illinois.

and for scraping hides when preparing them for tanning. The recent discoveries of remains of the ancient "Lake Dwellers," of Switzerland, have resulted in finding similar implements attached to handles, making them a very formidable battle-axe.

FIG. 5= $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Vermilion county, Ill.

FIG. 6= $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Vermilion co., Ill. (H. N. Rust's Collection.)

From the implements obtained by Mr. Rust of the Sioux it can readily be seen how implements like Fig. 6, although tapering from the bit to the top, could be attached to handles by means of a rawhide band. Before fastening on the handle the rawhide would be soaked in water, and on drying would tighten to the roughened surface of the stone with a secure grip. A blow given with the cutting edge of this implement would tend to wedge it the more firmly into the handle.\*

\*In the Fifth Annual Report of the Regents of the University of New York (Albany, 1852, page 105), Mr. L. H. Morgan illustrates the *ga-ne-a-ga-o-dus-ha*, or war club, used by "the Iroquois at the period of their discovery." The helve is a crooked piece of wood, with a chisel-shaped bit formed out of deer's horn—shaped like Fig. No. 7, on the next page—inserted at the elbow, near the larger end; and in many respects it resembles the clubs illustrated in Plate X, vol. 2, of Dr. Keller's work on the "Lake Dwellings of Switzerland and other parts of Europe." Mr. Morgan remarks that "in later times a piece of steel was substituted for the deer horn, thus making it a more deadly weapon than formerly." There is little doubt that the Indians used such implements as Figs. 5, 6 and 7 for splitting wood and various other purposes. The fact of their being used for splitting wood was mentioned by Father Charlevoix over a hundred and fifty years ago, as appears from extracts on page 181 of this book, quoted from his Narrative Journal.



Fig. 7 is another style of axe. The material out of which it is composed is greenstone, admitting of a fine polish. There would be no difficulty at all in shrinking a rawhide band to its surface, and the somewhat polished condition of its sides above the "bit" would indicate a long application of this kind of a fastening. It could also be used as a chisel in excavating the charred surface of wood that was being fashioned into canoes, mortars for cracking corn, or in the construction of other domestic utensils.

Fig. 8 is a club or hammer, or both. Its material is dark quartz. Some varieties of this implement have a groove cut around the center, like Fig. 9. The manner of handling it involves the use of rawhide, and, with some, is performed substantially in the same manner as in Figs. 5, 6 and 7, except that the band of rawhide is broader, and extends some distance on either side of the lesser diameter

FIG. 7= $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Vermilion county, Ill.

FIG. 8= $\frac{1}{2}$ .Vermilion county, Ill.  
(H. N. Rust's Collection.)

FIG. 36.



Dakota.

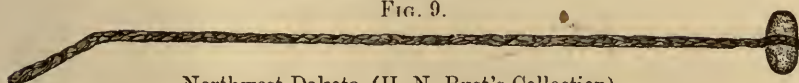
(H. N. Rust's Collection.)

of the stone. In other instances they are secured in a hood of rawhide that envelops nearly the whole implement, leaving the point or one end of the stone slightly exposed, as in Fig. 36.\*

\* Mr. Rust has in his collection a number of such implements, some of them weighing several pounds, which, along with the ones illustrated, were obtained by him from the Sioux of northwest Dakota, and which are "hooded" in the manner here described. Mr. Wm. Gurley, of Danville, Illinois, while in southwestern Colorado in 1876, saw many such clubs in use by the Ute Indians. They were entirely encased in rawhide, having short handles. The handles were encased in the rawhide that extended continuously, enveloping both the handle and the stone. The Utes used these implements as hammers in crushing corn, etc., the rawhide covering of some being worn through from long use, and exposing the stone.

Fig. 9 was obtained from the Sioux by Mr. Rust. The stone is composed of semi-transparent quartz. Its uses have already been described.

FIG. 9.



Northwest Dakota (H. N. Rust's Collection).

Figs. 10 and 11 were probably used as spear-heads, they are certainly too large for arrow-heads, and too thick and roundish to answer the purpose of knives. The material is white chert. The edges of both these implements are spiral, the "wind" of the opposite edges being quite uniform. Whether this was owing to the design of the maker or the twist in the grain of the chert, from which they are made, is a conjecture at best.

FIG. 10= $\frac{1}{2}$ .



Vermilion county, Ill.

FIG. 11= $\frac{1}{2}$ .



Vermilion county, Ill.

FIG. 12= $\frac{1}{2}$ .



Vermilion county, Ill.

Fig. 12 was probably a spear or knife. The material is dark flint. A piece of quartz is impacted in the upper half of the blade, the chipping through of which displays the skill of the person who made it. The shoulders of the implement are unequal, and the angle of its edges are not uniform. It is flatter upon one side than upon the other. These irregularities would throw it out of balance, and seemingly preclude its use as an arrow, while its strong shank and deep yokes above the shoulder would admit of its being firmly secured to a handle.

Fig. 13 was probably intended for an arrow-head, and thrown aside because of a flaw on the surface opposite that shown in the cut.

It is introduced to illustrate the manner in which the work progresses in making such implements. From an examination it would appear that the outline of the implement is first made. After this, one side is reduced to the required form. Then work on the opposite side begins, the point and edges being first reduced. The flakes are chipped off from the edges *upward* toward the center of and *against* the part of the stone to be cut away. In this manner the delicate point and completed edges are preserved while the implement is being perfected, leaving the shoulders, neck and shank the last to be finished.

Fig. 14 is formed out of dark-colored, hard, fine-grained flint. Its edges are a uniform spiral, making nearly a half-turn from shoulder

FIG.13= $\frac{1}{2}$ .Vermilion  
co., Ill.FIG.14= $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Vermilion county, Ill.

FIG.15= $\frac{1}{2}$ .Vermilion county, Ill.  
(H. N. Rust's Collection.)FIG.16= $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Vermilion county, Ill.

to point. It is neatly balanced, and if used as an arrow-head its wind or twist would, without doubt, give a rotary motion to the shaft in its flight. It is very ingeniously made, and its delicately chipped surface shows that the man who made the implement intentionally gave it the peculiar shape it possesses.

Fig. 15 is made out of fine-grained blue flint. It is unusually long in proportion to its breadth. Its edges are neatly beveled from a line along its center, and are quite sharp. Its well defined shoulders and head, with the yoke deeply cut between to hold the thong, would indicate its use as an arrow-point.



Fig. 16 is a perfect implement, and its surfaces are smoother than the observer might infer from the illustration. Its edges are very sharp and smooth and parallel to the axis of the implement. Its head, unlike that of the other implements illustrated, is round and pointed, with cutting edges as carefully formed as any part of the blade. It has no yoked neck in which to bury a thong or thread, and there seems to be no way of fastening it into a shaft or handle. It may be a perfect instrument without the addition of either. It is made out of blue flint.

## ARROW HEADS.

Several different forms of implements (commonly recognized as arrow heads) are illustrated, to show some of the more common of the many varieties found everywhere over the country. Fig. 17 has uniformly slanting edges, sharp barbs and a strong shank. The material from which it is made is white chert. For shooting fish or in pursuing game or an enemy, where it was intended that the implement could not be easily withdrawn from the flesh in which it might be driven, the prominent barbs would secure a firm hold.

Fig. 18 is composed of blue flint; its outline is more rounded than the preceding specimen, while a spiral form is given to its delicate and sharp point.

FIG. 17= $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Vermilion county,  
Ill.

FIG. 18= $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Vermilion  
county, Ill.

FIG. 19= $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Vermilion county,  
Ill.

FIG. 20= $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Vermilion  
county, Ill.

Fig. 19 is composed of white chert. Its surface is much smoother than the shadings in the cut would imply. Its shape is very much like a shield. Its barbs are prominent, and the instrument would make a wide incision in the body of an animal into which it might be forced.

Fig. 20, like Fig. 17, has sharp and elongated barbs. It is fashioned out of white chert, and is a neat, smooth and well-balanced implement.

Fig. 21 is made from yellowish-brown quartz, semi-transparent and inclined to be impure. The surfaces are oval from edge to edge, while the edges themselves are beautifully serrated or notched, as is shown in the cut. It is, perhaps, a sample of the finest workmanship illustrated in this chapter. Indeed, among the many collections which the writer has had opportunities to examine, he has never seen a specimen that was more skillfully made.

FIG. 21= $\frac{1}{2}$ .Vermilion  
county, Ill.

Fig. 22 may be an arrow-point or a reamer. The material is white chert. Between the stem and the notches the implement is quite thick, tapering gradually back to the head, giving great support to this part of the implement.

Fig. 23 is an arrow-point, or would be so regarded. Its stem is roundish, and has a greater diameter than the cut would indicate to the eye. The material from which it is formed is white chert.

FIG. 22= $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Vermilion co., Ill.

FIG. 23= $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Vermilion co., Ill.

FIG. 24= $\frac{1}{2}$ .

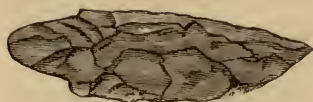
Vermilion co., Ill.

FIG. 25= $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Vermilion co., Ill.

Figs. 24 and 25 are specimens of the smaller variety of "points" with which arrows are tipped that are used in killing small game. Fig. 24 is made out of black "trap-rock," and Fig. 25 out of flesh-colored flint.

Fig. 26 is displayed on account of its peculiar form; the under surface is nearly flat, and the other side has quite a ridge or spine running the entire length from head to point. Besides this the head

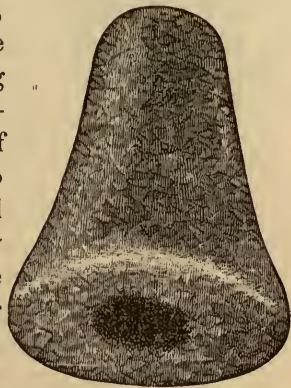
FIG. 26= $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Vermilion county, Ill.

and point turn upward, giving a uniform curve to the implement. If used as an arrow-point, the shaft, in consequence of the shape of the stone, would describe a curved line when shot from the bow. It is made of white flint. No suggestions are offered as to its probable uses.

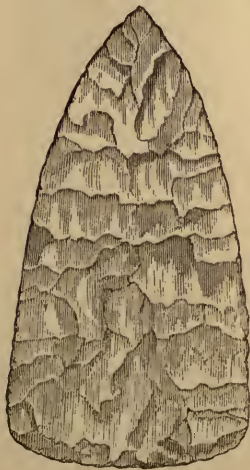
## IMPLEMENTS FOR DOMESTIC USES.

Fig. 27 is a pestle or pounder. It is made out of common granite. There are many different styles of this implement, some varieties are more conical, while others are more bell-shaped than the one illustrated. They are used for crushing corn and other like purposes. The one illustrated has a concave place near the center of the base; this would the better adapt it to cracking nuts, as the hollow space would protect the kernel from being too severely crushed. In connection with this stone, the Indians sometimes used mortars, made either of wood or stone, into which the articles to be pulverized could be placed; or the corn or beans could be done up in the folds of a skin, or inclosed in a leathern bag, and then crushed by blows struck with either the head or rim of the pestle. The stone mortars were usually flat discs, slightly hollowed out from the edges toward the center.

FIG. 27 =  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Vermilion county, Illinois.  
(H. N. Rust's collection.)

Fig. 28 may be designated as a flesher or scraper. The specimen illustrated is made of white flint. It is very thin, considering the breadth and length of the implement, and has sharp cutting edges all the way around. It might be used as a knife, as well as for a variety of other purposes. It is an unusually smooth and highly finished tool. It and its mate, which is considerably broader, and proportioned more like Fig. 29, were found sticking perpendicular in the ground, with their points barely exposed above the surface, on the farm of Wm. Foster, a few miles east of Danville, Illinois. Both of them will make as clean a cut through several folds of paper as the blade of a good pocket-knife.

FIG. 28 =  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Vermilion county, Ill.

FIG. 29 =  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Vermilion co., Ill.

Fig. 29 is composed of an impure purplish flint. It is very much like Fig. 28, and was probably used for similar purposes.



FIG. 30= $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Vermilion county, Ill.

Fig. 30, as the illustration shows, is rougher-edged than the two preceding ones. The side opposite the one shown has a more uneven surface than the other. A smooth, well-defined groove runs across the implement (as shown by the dark shading) as though it were intended to be fastened to a helve, although the groove would afford good support for the thumb, if the implement were used only with the hand. The material is a coarse, impure, grayish flint.

Fig. 31 might be said to combine the qualities of a knife, gimlet and bodkin. Its cutting edges extend all

FIG. 31= $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Vermilion county, Ill.

around, and along the stem the edges are quite abrupt. The implement was originally much longer, but it appears to have lost about an inch in length, its point having been broken off. The blade will cut cloth or paper very readily. The material is white flint.

Fig. 32 may be classed with Fig. 31. The material is dark fine-grained flint, and the implement perfect. There is a perceptible wind to the edges of the stem, while the edges of the head are parallel with the plane of the implement, and so sharp that they will cut cloth, leather or paper. It was probably used to bore holes and cut out skins that were being manufactured into clothing and other articles.

FIG. 32= $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Vermilion county, Ill.

FIG. 33= $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Vermilion county, Ill.

Fig. 33 may have been made for the same uses as Figs. 31 and 32. The blade is shaped like a spade, the stem representing the handle. It tapers from the bit of the blade where the stem joins the shoulder, which is the thickest part of the implement, and from the shoulder it tapers to both ends. The bit is shaped like a gouge, and makes a circular incision. It is a smooth piece of workmanship, made out of white flint.

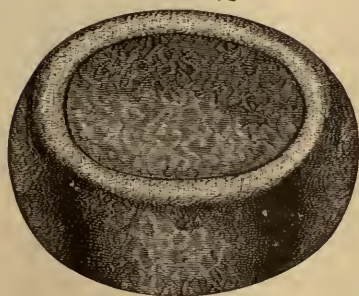
Fig. 34 has been designated as a "rimmer." The material of which it is made is flesh-colored flint. The stem is nearly round, and the implement could be used for piercing holes in leather or wood. Another use attributed to it is for drilling holes in pipes, gorgets, discs and other implements formed out of stone where the material was soft enough to admit of being perforated in this way.



FIG. 34= $\frac{1}{2}$ .  
Vermilion county, Ill.

Fig. 35. By common consent this implement has received the name of "discoidal stone." The one illustrated is composed of fine dark-gray granite. Several theories have been offered as to the uses of this implement,—one that they are quoits used by the Indians in playing a game similar to that of "pitching horse-shoes"; that they were employed in another game resembling "ten-pins," in which the stone would be grasped on its concave side by the thumb and second finger, while the fore-finger rested on the outer edge, or rim, and

FIG. 35= $\frac{1}{2}$ .



Vermilion county, Ill. (H. N. Rust's Collection.)

that by a peculiar motion of the arm in hurling the stone it would describe a convolute figure as it rolled along upon the ground. . We may suggest that implements like this might be used as paint cups, as their convex surface would enable the warrior to grind his pigments and reduce them to powder, preparatory to decorating his person.

The implements illustrated were, no doubt, put to many other uses besides those suggested. As the pioneer would make his house, furniture, plow, ox yokes, and clear his land with his axe, so the Indians, in the poverty of their supply, we may assume, were compelled to make a single tool serve as many purposes as their ingenuity could devise.

## CHAPTER XX.

### THE WAR FOR THE FUR TRADE.

FORMERLY the great Northwest abounded in game and water-fowl. The small lakes and lesser water-courses were full of beaver, otter and muskrats. In the forests were found the marten, the raccoon, and other fur-bearing animals. The plains, partially submerged, and the rivers, whose current had a sluggish flow, the shallow lakes, producing annual crops of wild rice, of nature's own sowing, teemed with wild geese, duck and other aquatic fowl bursting in their very fatness.\*

The turkey, in his glossy feathers, strutted the forests, some of them being of prodigious size, weighing thirty-six pounds.†

The shy deer and the lordly elk, crowned with outspreading horns, grazed upon the plain and in the open woods, while the solitary moose browsed upon the buds in the thick copsewood that gave him food and a hiding place as well. The fleet-footed antelope nibbled at the tender grasses on the prairies, or bounded away over the ridges to hide in the valleys beyond, from the approach of the stealthy wolf or wily Indian. The belts of timber along the water-courses

\* "The plains and prairies (referring to the country on either side of the Illinois River) are all covered with buffaloes, roebucks, hinds, stags, and different kind of fallow deer. The feathered game is also here in the greatest abundance. We find, particularly, quantities of swan, geese and ducks. The wild oats, which grow naturally on the plains, fatten them to such a degree that they often die from being smothered in their own grease."—Father Marest's letter, written in 1712. We have already seen, from a description given on page 103, that water-fowl were equally abundant upon the Maumee.

† In a letter of Father Rasles, dated October 12, 1723, there is a fine description of the game found in the Illinois country. It reads: "Of all the nations of Canada, there are none who live in so great abundance of everything as the Illinois. Their rivers are covered with swans, bustards, ducks and teals. One can scarcely travel a league without finding a prodigious multitude of turkeys, who keep together in flocks, often to the number of two hundred. They are much larger than those we see in France. I had the curiosity to weigh one, which I found to be thirty-six pounds. They have hanging from the neck a kind of tuft of hair half a foot in length.

"Bears and stags are found there in very great numbers, and buffaloes and roebucks are also seen in vast herds. Not a year passes but they (the Indians) kill more than a thousand roebucks and more than two thousand buffaloes. From four to five thousand of the latter can often be seen at one view grazing on the prairies. They have a hump on the back and an exceedingly large head. The hair, except that on the head, is curled and soft as wool. The flesh has naturally a salt taste, and is so light that, although eaten entirely raw, it does not cause the least indigestion. When they have killed a buffalo, which appears to them too lean, they content themselves with taking the tongue, and going in search of one which is fatter." *Vide* Kip's Jesuit Missions, pp. 38, 39.



afforded lodgment for the bear, and were the trellises that supported the tangled wild grapevines, the fruit of which, to this animal, was an article of food. The bear had for his neighbor the panther, the wild cat and the lynx, whose carnivorous appetites were appeased in the destruction of other animals.



Immense herds of buffalo roamed over the extensive area bounded on the east by the Alleghanies and on the north by the lakes, embracing the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and the southern half of Michigan. Their trails checkered the prairies of Indiana and Illinois in every direction, the marks of which, deep worn in the turf, remained for many years after the disappearance of the animals that made them.\* Their numbers when the country was first known to Europeans were immense, and beyond computation. In their migrations southward in the fall, and on their return from the blue-grass regions of Kentucky in the spring, the Ohio River was obstructed for miles during the time occupied by the vast herds in crossing it. Indeed, the French called the buffalo the "Illinois ox," on account of their numbers found in "the country of the Illinois," using that expression in its wider sense, as explained on a preceding page. So great importance was attached to the supposed commercial value of the buffalo for its wool that when Mons. Iberville, in 1698, was engaged to undertake the colonization of Louisiana, the king instructed him to look after the buffalo wool as one of the most important of his duties; and Father Charlevoix, while traveling through "The Illinois," observed that he was surprised that the buffalo had been so long neglected.† Among the favorite haunts of the buffalo were the marshes of the Upper Kankakee, the low lands about the lakes of northern Indiana, where the oozy soil furnished early as well as late pasturage, the briny earth upon the Au Glaize, and the Salt Licks upon the Wabash and Illinois rivers were tempting places of resort. From the summit of the high hill at Ouiatanon, overlooking the Wea plains to the east and the Grand Prairie to the west,

\* "Nothing," says Father Charlevoix, writing of the country about the confluence of the Fox with the Illinois River, "is to be seen in this course but immense prairies, interspersed with small groves which seem to have been planted by the hands of men. The grass is so very high that a man would be almost lost in it, and through which paths are to be found everywhere, *as well trodden* as they could have been in the most populated countries, although nothing passes over them but buffaloes, and from time to time a herd of deer or a few roebuck": Charlevoix' Narrative Journal, vol. 2, p. 200.

† Brackenridge's Views of Louisiana.

as far as the eye could reach in either direction, the plains were seen covered with groups, grazing together, or, in long files, stretching away in the distance, their dark forms, contrasting with the green-sward upon which they fed or strolled, and inspiring the enthusiasm of the Frenchman, who gave the description quoted on page 104. Still later, when passing through the prairies of Illinois, on his way from Vincennes to Ouiatanon,—more a prisoner than an ambassador,—George Croghan makes the following entry in his daily journal: “18th and 19th of June, 1765.—We traveled through a prodigious large meadow, called the Pyankeshaws’ hunting ground. Here is no wood to be seen, and the country appears like an ocean. The ground is exceedingly rich and partially overgrown with wild hemp.\* The land is well watered and full of buffalo, deer, bears, and all kinds of wild game. 20th and 21st.—We passed through some very large meadows, part of which belonged to the Pyankeshaws on the Vermilion River. The country and soil were much the same as that we traveled over for these three days past. Wild hemp grows here in abundance. The game is very plenty. At any time in a half hour we could kill as much as we wanted.”†

Gen. Clark, in the postscript of his letter dated November, 1779, narrating his campaign in the Illinois country, says, concerning the prairies between Kaskaskia and Vincennes, that “there are large meadows extending beyond the reach of the eye, variegated with groves of trees appearing like islands in the seas, covered with buffaloes and other game. In many places, with a good glass, you may see all that are upon their feet in a half million acres.”‡ It is not known at what time the buffalo was last seen east of the Mississippi. The Indians had a tradition that the cold winter of 17—, —called by them “the *great cold*,” on account of its severity,—destroyed them. “The snow was so deep, and lay upon the ground for such a length of time, that the buffalo became poor and too weak to resist the inclemency of the weather;” great numbers of them perished, singly and in groups, and their bones, either as isolated skeletons or in bleaching piles, remained and were found over the country for many years afterwards.§

\* Further on in his Journal Col. Croghan again refers to “wild hemp, growing in the prairies, ten or twelve feet high, which if properly cultivated would prove as good and answer all the purposes of the hemp we cultivate.” Other writers also mention the wild hemp upon the prairies, and it seems to have been supplanted by other grasses that have followed in the changes of vegetable growth.

† Croghan’s Journal.

‡ Clark’s Campaign in the Illinois, p. 92.

§ On the 4th of October, 1786, one day’s march on the road from Vincennes to the Ohio Falls, Captains Zigler’s and Strong’s companies of regulars came across five buffalo. The animals tried to force a passage through the column, when the commanding officer

Before the coming of the Europeans the Indians hunted the game for the purpose of supplying themselves with the necessary food and clothing. The scattered tribes (whose numbers early writers greatly exaggerated) were few, when compared with the area of the country they occupied, and the wild animals were so abundant that enough to supply their wants could be captured near at hand with such rude weapons as their ingenuity fashioned out of wood and stone. With the Europeans came a change. The fur of many of the animals possessed a commercial value in the marts of Europe, where they were bought and used as ornaments and dress by the aristocracy, whose wealth and taste fashioned them into garments of extraordinary richness. Canada was originally settled with a view to the fur trade, and this trade was, to her people, of the first importance — the chief motor of her growth and prosperity. The Indians were supplied with guns, knives and hatchets by the Europeans, in place of their former inferior weapons. Thus encouraged and equipped, and accompanied by the *coureur des bois*, the remotest regions were penetrated, and the fur trade extended to the most distant tribes. Stimulated with a desire for blankets, cotton goods and trinkets, the Indians now began a war upon the wild animals in earnest; and their wanton destruction for their skins and furs alone from that period forward was so enormous that within the next two or three generations the improvident Indians in many localities could scarcely find enough game for their own subsistence.

The *coureur des bois* were a class that had much to do with the development of trade and with giving a knowledge of the geography of the country. They became extremely useful to the merchants engaged in the fur trade, and were often a source of great annoyance to the colonial authorities. Three or four of these people, having obtained goods upon credit, would join their stock, put their property into a birch bark canoe, which they worked themselves, and accompany the Indians in their excursions or go directly

ordered the men to fire upon them. The discharge killed three and wounded the others: Joseph Buell's Narrative Journal, published in S. P. Hildreth's Pioneer History. Thirteen years later, in December, 1799, Gov. St. Clair and Judge Jacob Burnett, on their way overland from Cincinnati to Vincennes, camped out over night, at the close of one of their days' journeys, not a great ways east of where the old road from Louisville to Vincennes crosses White River. The next day they encountered a severe snow-storm, during which they surprised eight or ten buffalo, sheltering themselves from the storm behind a beech-tree full of dead leaves which had fallen beside of the *trace* and hid the travelers from their view. The tree and the noise of the wind among its leaves prevented the buffalo from discovering the parties until the latter had approached within two rods of the place where they stood. They then took to their heels and were soon out of sight. One of the company drew a pistol and fired, but without effect: Burnett's Notes on the Northwest Territory, p. 72.



into the country where they knew they were to hunt.\* These voyages were extended twelve or fifteen months (sometimes longer) before the traders would return laden with rich cargoes of fur, and often followed by great numbers of the natives. During the short time required to settle their accounts with the merchants and procure credit for a new stock, the traders would contrive to squander their gains before they returned to their favorite mode of life among the savages, their labor being rewarded by indulging themselves in one month's dissipation for fifteen of exposure and hardship. "We may not be able to explain the cause, but experience proves that it requires much less time for a civilized people to degenerate into the ways of savage life than is required for the savage to rise into a state of civilization. The indifference about amassing property, and the pleasure of living free from all restraint, soon introduced a licentiousness among the *coureur des bois* that did not escape the eye of the missionaries, who complained, with good reason, that they were a disgrace to the Christian religion."†

"The food of the *coureur des bois* when on their long expeditions was Indian corn, prepared for use by boiling it in strong lye to remove the hull, after which it was mashed and dried. In this state it is soft and friable like rice. The allowance for each man on the voyage, was one quart per day; and a bushel, with two pounds of prepared fat, is reckoned a month's subsistence. No other allowance is made of any kind, not even of salt, and bread is never thought of; nevertheless the men are healthy on this diet, and capable of performing great labor. This mode of victualing was essential to the trade, which was extended to great distances, and in canoes so small as not to admit of the use of any other food. If the men were supplied with bread and pork, the canoes would not carry six months' rations, while the ordinary duration of the voyage was not less than fourteen. No other men would be reconciled to such fare except the Canadians, and this fact enabled their employers to secure a monopoly of the fur trade."‡

"The old *voyageurs* derisively called new hands at the business *mangeurs de lard* (pork eaters), as, on leaving Montreal, and while en route to Mackinaw, their rations were pork, hard bread and pea

\* The merchandise was neatly tied into bundles weighing sixty or seventy pounds; the furs received in exchange were compressed into packets of about the same weight, so that they could be conveniently carried, strapped upon the back of the *voyageur*, around the portages and other places where the loaded canoes could effect no passage.

† Sir Alexander Mackenzie's *Voyages*, etc., and *An Account of the Fur Trade*, etc.

‡ Henry's *Travels*, p. 52.

soup, while the old *voyageurs* in the Indian country ate corn soup and such other food as could be conveniently procured.”\*

“The *coureur des bois* were men of easy virtue. They would eat, riot, drink and play as long as their furs held out,” says La Hontan, “and when these were gone they would sell their embroidery, their laces and their clothes. The proceeds of these exhausted, they were forced to go upon new voyages for subsistence.”†

They did not scruple to intermarry with the Indians, among whom they spent the greater part of their lives. They made excellent soldiers, and in bush fighting and border warfare they were more than a match for the British regulars. “Their merits were hardihood and skill in woodcraft; their chief faults were insubordination and lawlessness.”‡

Such were the characteristics of the French traders or *coureur des bois*. They penetrated the remotest parts, voyaged upon all of our western rivers, and traveled many of the insignificant streams that afforded hardly water enough to float a canoe. Their influence over the Indians (to whose mode of life they readily adapted themselves) was almost supreme. They were efficient in the service of their king, and materially assisted in staying the downfall of French rule in America.

There is no data from which to ascertain the value of the fur trade, as there were no regular accounts kept. The value of the trade to the French, in 1703, was estimated at two millions of livres, and this could have been from only a partial return, as a large per cent of the trade was carried on clandestinely through Albany and New York, of which the French authorities in Canada could have no knowledge. With the loss of Canada, and the west to France, and owing to the dislike of the Indians toward the English, and the want of experience by the latter, the fur trade, controlled at Montreal, fell into decay, and the Hudson Bay Company secured the advantages of its downfall. During the winter of 1783-4 some merchants

\* Vol. 2 Wisconsin Historical Collection, p. 110. Judge Lockwood gives a very fine sketch of the *coureur des bois* and the manner of their employment, in the paper from which we have quoted.

† La Hontan, vol. 1, pp. 20 and 21.

‡ Parkman's Count Frontenac and New France, p. 209. Judge Lockwood, in the paper referred to, speaking of the *coureur des bois* as their relations existed to the fur trade in 1817, thus describes them: “These men engaged in Canada, generally for five years, for Mackinaw and its dependencies, transferrable like cattle, to any one who wanted them, at generally about 500 livres a year, or, in our currency, about \$83.33, furnished with a yearly equipment or outfit of two cotton shirts, one three-point or triangular blanket, a portage collar and one pair of shoes. They were obliged to purchase their moccasins, tobacco and pipes at any price the trader saw fit to charge for them. At the end of five years the *voyageurs* were in debt from \$50 to \$150, and could not leave the country until they paid their indebtedness.”

of Canada united their trade under the name of the "Northwest Company"; they did not get successfully to work until 1787. During that year the venture did not exceed forty thousand pounds, but by exertion and the enterprise of the proprietors it was brought, in eleven years, to more than triple that amount (equal to six hundred thousand dollars), yielding proportionate profits, and surpassing anything then known in America.\*

The fur trade was conducted by the English, and subsequently by the Americans, substantially upon the system originally established by the French, with this distinction, that the monopoly was controlled by French officers and favorites, to whom the trade for particular districts was assigned, while the English and Americans controlled it through companies operating either under charters or permits from the government.

Goods for Indian trade were guns, ammunition, steel for striking fire, gun-flints, and other supplies to repair fire-arms; knives, hatchets, kettles, beads, men's shirts, blue and red cloths for blankets and petticoats; vermilion, red, yellow, green and blue ribbons, generally of English manufacture; needles, thread and awls; looking-glasses, children's toys, woolen blankets, razors for shaving the head, paints of all colors, tobacco, and, more than all, *spirituous liquors*. For these articles the Indians gave in exchange the skins of deer, bear, otter, squirrel, marten, lynx, fox, wolf, buffalo, moose, and particularly the beaver, the highest prized of them all. Such was the value attached to the skins and fur of the last that it became the standard of value. All other values were measured by the beaver, the same as we now use gold, in adjusting commercial transactions. All differences in exchanges of property or in payment for labor were first reduced in value to the beaver skin. Money was rarely received or paid at any of the trading-posts, the only circulating medium were furs and peltries. In this exchange a pound of beaver skin was reckoned at thirty *sous*, an otter skin at six *livres*, and marten skins at thirty *sous* each. This was only about half of the real value of the furs, and it was therefore always agreed to pay either in furs at their equivalent cash value at the fort or double the amount reckoned at current fur value.†

When the French controlled the fur trade, the posts in the interior of the country were assigned to officers who were in favor at headquarters. As they had no money, the merchants of Quebec and Montreal supplied them on credit with the necessary goods, which

\* Mackenzie's Voyages, Fur Trade, etc.

† Henry's Travels and Pouchot's Memoirs.



were to be paid for in peltries at a price agreed upon, thus being required to earn profits for themselves and the merchant. These officers were often employed to negotiate for the king with the tribes near their trading-posts and give them goods as presents, the price for the latter being paid by the intendant upon the approval of the governor. This occasioned many hypothecated accounts, which were turned to the profit of the commandants, particularly in time of war. The commandants as well as private traders were obliged to take out a license from the governor at a cost of four or five hundred *livres*, in order to carry their goods to the posts, and to charge some effects to the king's account. The most distant posts in the north-west were prized the greatest, because of the abundance and low price of peltries and the high price of goods at these remote establishments.

Another kind of trade was carried on by the *coureurs des bois*, who, sharing the license with the officer at the post, with their canoes laden with goods, went to the villages of the Indians, and followed them on their hunting expeditions, to return after a season's trading with their canoes well loaded. If the *coureurs des bois* were in a condition to purchase their goods of first hands a quick fortune was assured them, although to obtain it they had to lead a most dangerous and fatiguing life. Some of these traders would return to France after a few years' venture with wealth amounting to two million five hundred thousand *livres*.\*

The French were not permitted to exclusively enjoy the enormous profits of the fur trade. We have seen, in treating of the Miami Indians, that at an early day the English and the American colonists were determined to share it, and had become sharp competitors. We have seen (page 112) that to extend their trade the English had set their allies, the Iroquois, upon the Illinois. So formidable were the inroads made by the English upon the fur trade of the French, by means of the conquests to which they had incited the Iroquois to gain over other tribes that were friendly to the French, that the latter became "of the opinion that if the Iroquois were allowed to proceed they would not only subdue the Illinois, but become masters of all the Ottawa tribes,† and divert the trade to the English, so that it was absolutely necessary that the French should either make the Iroquois *their friends or destroy them*.‡ You perceive, my Lord,

\* Pouchot's Memoirs.

† Whose territories embraced all the country west of Lake Huron and north of Illinois,—one of the most prolific beaver grounds in the country.

‡ Memoir of M. Du Chesneau, the Intendant, to the King, September 9, 1681, before quoted.

that the subject which we have discussed [referring to the efforts of the English of New York and Albany to gain the beaver trade] is to determine who will be *master of the beaver trade* of the south and southwest.”\*

In the struggle to determine who should be masters of the fur trade, the French cared as little,—perhaps less,—for their Indian allies than the British and Americans did for theirs. The blood that was shed in the English and French colonies north of the Ohio River, for a period of over three-quarters of a century prior to 1763, might well be said to have been spilled in a war for the fur trade.†

In the strife between the rivals,—the French endeavoring to hold their former possessions, and the English to extend theirs,—the strait of Detroit was an object of concern to both. Its strategical position was such that it would give the party possessing it a decided advantage. M. Du Lute, or L'Hut, under orders from Gov. De Nonville, left Mackinaw with some fifty odd *coureurs des bois* in 1688, sailed down Lake Huron and threw up a small stockade fort on the west bank of the lake, where it discharges into the River St. Clair. The following year Capt. McGregory,—Major Patrick Magregore, as his name is spelled in the commission he had in his pocket over the signature of Gov. Dongan,—with sixty Englishmen and some Indians, with their merchandise loaded in thirty-two canoes, went up Lake Erie on a trading expedition among the Indians at Detroit and Mackinaw. They were encountered and captured by a body of troops under Tonty, La Forest and other officers, who, with *coureur de bois* and Indians from the upper country, were on their way to join the French forces of Canada in a campaign against the Iroquois villages in New York.‡ The prisoners were sent to Quebec, and the plunder distributed among the captors. Du Lute's stockade was called Fort St. Joseph. In 1688 the fort was placed in command of Baron La Hontan.§

Fort St. Joseph served the purposes for which it was constructed, and a few years later, in 1701, Mons. Cadillac established Fort Pontchartrain on the present site of the city of Detroit, for no other pur-

\* M. De La Barre to the Minister of the Marine, November 4, 1683: Paris Documents, vol. 9, p. 210.

† War was not formally declared between France and England, on account of colonial difficulties, until May, 1756, but the discursory broils between their colonies in America had been going on from the time of their establishment.

‡ Tonty's Memoir, and Paris Documents, vol. 9, pp. 363 and 866.

§ Fort Du Luth, or St. Joseph, as it was afterward called, was ordered to be erected in 1686, “in order to fortify the pass leading to Mackinaw against the English.” Du Luth, who erected it, was in command of fifty men. Several parties of English were either captured or sent back from this post within a year or two from its establishment. *Vide* Paris Documents, vol. 9, pp. 300, 302, 306, 383.

pose than to check the English in the prosecution of the fur trade in that country.\*

The French interests were soon threatened from another direction. Traders from Pennsylvania found their way westward over the mountains, where they engaged in traffic with the Indians in the valleys of eastern Ohio, and they soon established commercial relations with the Wabash tribes.† It appears from a previous chapter that the Miamis were trading at Albany in 1708. To avert this danger the French were compelled at last to erect military posts at Fort Wayne, on the Maumee (called Fort Miamis), at Ouiatanon and Vincennes, upon the Wabash.‡ Prior to 1750 Sieur de Ligneris was commanding at Fort Ouiatanon, and St. Ange was in charge at Vincennes.

As soon as the English settlements reached the eastern slope of the Alleghanies, their traders passed over the ridge, and they found it exceedingly profitable to trade with the western Indians. They could sell the same quality of goods for a third or a half of what the French usually charged, and still make a handsome profit. This new and rich field was soon overrun by eager adventurers. In the meantime a number of gentlemen, mostly from Virginia, procured an act of parliament constituting "The Ohio Company," and granting them six hundred thousand acres of land on or near the Ohio River. The objects of this company were to till the soil and to open up a trade with the Indians west of the Alleghanies and south of the Ohio.

The French, being well aware that the English could offer their goods to the Indians at greatly reduced rates, feared that they would lose the entire Indian trade. At first they protested "against this invasion of the rights of His Most Christian Majesty" to the governor of the English colonies. This did not produce the desired effect. Their demands were met with equivocations and delays. At last the French determined on summary measures. An order

\* Statement of Mons. Cadillac of his reasons for establishing a fort on the Detroit River, copied in Sheldon's Early History of Michigan, pp. 85-90.

† An Englishman by the name of Crawford had been trading on the Wabash prior to 1749. *Vide* Irving's Life of Washington, vol. 1, p. 48.

‡ The date of the establishment of these forts is a matter of conjecture, owing to the absence of reliable data. A "Miamis" is referred to in 1719, and in the same year Sieur Duboisson was selected as a suitable person to take command at Ouiatanon, and in 1735 M. de Vincenne is alluded to, in a letter written from Kaskaskia, as commandant of the Post on the Wabash. However, owing to the successive migrations of the Miami Indians, the "Miamis" mentioned in such documents, in 1719, may have referred to the Miami and Wea villages upon the Kalamazoo and St. Joseph rivers, in the state of Michigan. The post at Vincennes, it may be safely assumed, was garrisoned as early as 1735, and Ouiatanon, below La Fayette, and Miamis, at Fort Wayne, some years before, in the order of time.



was issued to the commandants of their various posts on Lake Erie, the Ohio and the Wabash, to seize all English traders found west of the Alleghanies. In pursuance of this order, in 1751, four English traders were captured on the Vermilion of the Wabash and sent to Canada.\* Other traders, dealing with the Indians in other localities, were captured and taken to Presque Isle,† and from thence to Canada.

The contest between the rival colonies still went on, increasing in the extent of its line of operations and intensifying in the animosity of the feeling with which it was conducted. We quote from a memoir prepared early in 1752, by M. de Longueuil, commandant at Detroit, showing the state of affairs at a previous date in the Wabash country. It appears, from the letters of the commandants at the several posts named, from which the memoir is compiled, that the Indian tribes upon the Maumee and Wabash, through the successful efforts of the English, had become very much disaffected toward their old friends and masters. M. de Ligneris, commandant at the Ouyatanons, says the memoir, believes that great reliance is not to be placed on the Maskoutins, and that their remaining neutral is all that is to be expected from them and the Kickapous. He even adds that "we are not to reckon on the nations which appear in our interests; no Wea chief has appeared at this post for a long time. M. de Villiers, commandant at the Miamis,—Ft. Wayne,—has been disappointed in his expectation of bringing the Miamis back from the White River,—part of whom had been to see him,—the small-pox having put the whole of them to rout. Coldfoot and his son have died of it, as well as a large portion of our most trusty Indians. *Le Gris*, chief of the *Tepicons*,‡ and his mother are likewise dead; they are a loss, because they were well disposed toward the French."

The memoir continues: "The nations of the River St. Joseph, who were to join those of Detroit, have said they would be ready to perform their promise as soon as *Ononontio*§ would have sent the necessary number of Frenchmen. The commandant of this post writes, on the 15th of January, that all the nations appear to take

\* Paris Documents, vol. 10, p. 248.

† Near Erie, Pennsylvania.

‡ This is the first reference we have to Tippecanoe. Antoine Gamelin, the French merchant at Vincennes,—whom Major Hamtramck sent, in 1790, to the Wabash towns with peace messages,—calls the village, then upon this river, *Qui-te-pi-con-nae*. The name of the Tippecanoe is derived from the Algonquin word *Ke-non-gé*, or *Ke-no-zha*—from *Kenose*, long, the name of the long-billed pike, a fish very abundant in this stream, *vide* Mackenzie's and James' Vocabularies. Timothy Flint, in his *Geography and History of the Western States*, first edition, published at Cincinnati, 1828, vol. 2, p. 125, says: "The Tippecanoe received its name from a kind of pike called *Pic-ca-nau* by the savages." The termination is evidently Frenchified.

§ The name by which the Indians called the governor of Canada.

sides against us; that he would not be responsible for the good dispositions these Indians seem to entertain, inasmuch as the Miamis are their near relatives. On the one hand, Mr. de Joncaire\* repeats that the Indians of the beautiful river† are all *English*, for whom alone they work; that all are resolved to sustain each other; and that not a party of Indians go to the beautiful river but leave some [of their numbers] there to increase the rebel forces. On the other hand, "Mr. de St. Ange, commandant of the post of Vincennes, writes to M. des Ligneris [at Ouiatanon] to use all means to protect himself from the storm which is ready to burst on the French; that *he* is busy securing himself against the fury of our enemies."

"The *Pianquichias*, who are at war with the *Chaouanons*, according to the report rendered by Mr. St. Clin, have *declared entirely against us*. They killed on Christmas *five Frenchmen at the Vermilion*. Mr. des Ligneris, who was aware of this attack, sent off a detachment to secure the effects of the Frenchmen from being plundered; but when this detachment arrived at the Vermilion, the Piankashaws had decamped. The bodies of the Frenchmen were found on the ice.‡

"M. des Ligneris was assured that the Piankashaws had committed this act because four men of their nation had been killed by the French at the Illinois, and four others had been taken and put in irons. It is said that these eight men were going to fight the Chickasaws, and had, without distrusting anything, entered the quarters of the French, who killed them. It is also reported that the Frenchmen had recourse to this extreme measure because a Frenchman and

\* A French half-breed having great influence over the Indians, and whom the French authorities had sent into Ohio to conciliate the Indians.

† The Ohio.

‡ Col. Croghan's Journal, before quoted, gives the key to the aboriginal name of this stream. On the 22d of June, 1765, he makes the following entry: "We passed through a part of the same meadow mentioned yesterday; then came to a *high* woodland and arrived at Vermilion River, so called from a fine red earth found there by the Indians, with which they paint themselves. About a half a mile from where we crossed this river there is a village of Piankashaws, distinguished by the addition of the name of the river" (that is, the Piankashaws of the Vermilion, or the Vermilions, as they were sometimes called). The red earth or red chalk, known under the provincial name of red keel, is abundant everywhere along the bluffs of the Vermilion, in the shales that overlay the outcropping coal. The annual fires frequently ignited the coal thus exposed, and would burn the shale above, turn it red and render it friable. Carpenters used it to chalk their lines, and the successive generation of boys have gathered it by the pocketful. Those acquainted with the passion of the Indian for paint, particularly red, will understand the importance which the Indians would attach to it. Hence, as noted by Croghan, they called the river after the name of this red earth. Vermilion is the French word conveying the same idea, and it is a coincidence merely that Vermilion in French has the same meaning as this word in English. On the map in "Volney's View of the Soil and Climate of the United States." Phila. ed. 1804, it is called Red River. The Miami Indian name of the Vermilion was *Piankashaw*, as appears from Gen. Putnam's manuscript Journal of the treaty at Vincennes in 1792.

two slaves had been killed a few days before by another party of Piankashaws, and that the Indians in question had no knowledge of that circumstance. The capture of four English traders by M. de Celoron's order last year has not prevented other Englishmen going to trade at the Vermilion River, where the Rev. Father la Richardie wintered."\*

The memoir continues: "On the 19th of October the Piankashaws had killed two more Frenchmen, who were constructing pirogues lower down than the Post of Vincenne. Two days afterward the Piankashaws killed two slaves in sight of Fort Vincenne. The murder of these nine Frenchmen and these two slaves is but too certain. A squaw, the widow of one of the Frenchmen who had been killed at the Vermilion, has reported that the Pianguichias, Illinois and Osages were to assemble at the prairies of —, the place where Messrs. de Villiers and de Noyelle attacked the Foxes about twenty years ago, and when they had built a fort to secure their families, they were to make a general attack on all the French.

"The Miamis of Rock River† have scalped two soldiers belonging to Mr. Villiers' fort.‡ This blow was struck last fall. Finally, the English have paid the Miamis for the scalps of the two soldiers belonging to Mr. de Villiers' garrison. To add to the misfortunes, M. des Ligneris has learned that the commandant of the Illinois at Fort Charters would not permit Sieurs Delisle and Fonblanche, who had contracted with the king to supply the *Miamis, Ouyatonons*, and even Detroit with provisions from the Illinois, to purchase any provisions for the subsistence of the garrisons of those posts, on the ground that an increased arrival of troops and families would consume the stock at the Illinois. Famine is not the sole scourge we experience; the smallpox commits ravages; it begins to reach Detroit. It were desirable that it should break out and spread generally throughout the localities inhabited by our rebels. It would be fully as good as an army."

The Piankashaws, now completely estranged from the French, withdrew, almost in a body, from the Wabash, and retired to the Big Miami, whither a number of Miamis and other Indians had,

\* Father Justinian de la Richardie came to Canada (according to the *Liste Chronologique*, No. 429) in 1716. He served many years in the Huron country, and also in the Illinois, and died in February, 1758. Biographical note of the editor of Paris Documents: Col. Hist. of New York, vol. 9, p. 88. The time when and the place at which this missionary was stationed on the Vermilion River is not given. The date was before 1750, as is evident from the text. The place was probably at the large Piankashaw town where the traders were killed.

† The Big Miami River of Ohio, on which stream, near the mouth of Loramies Creek, the Miamis had an extensive village, hereafter referred to.

‡ Ft. Wayne, where Mr. Villiers was then stationed in charge of Fort Miamis.



some years previous, established a village, to be nearer the English traders. The village was called *Pickawillany*, or *Picktown*. To the English and Iroquois it was known as the *Tawixtwi Town*, or *Miamitown*. It was located at the mouth of what has since been called Loramie's creek. The stream derived this name from the fact that a Frenchman of that name, subsequent to the events here narrated, had a trading-house at this place. The town was visited in 1751 by Christopher Gist, who gives the following description of it:\*

"The Twightee town is situated on the northwest side of the Big Miamie River, about one hundred and fifty miles from its mouth. It consists of four hundred families, and is daily increasing. It is accounted one of the strongest Indian towns in this part of the continent. The Twightees are a very numerous people, consisting of many different tribes under the same form of government. Each tribe has a particular chief, or king, one of which is chosen indifferently out of any tribe to rule the whole nation, and is vested with greater authority than any of the others. They have but lately traded with the English. They formerly lived on the farther side of the Wabash, and were in the French interests, who supplied them with some few trifles at a most exorbitant price. They have now revolted from them and left their former habitations for the sake of trading with the English, and notwithstanding all the artifices the French have used, they have not been able to recall them." George Croghan and Mr. Montour, agents in the English interests, were in the town at the time of Gist's visit, doing what they could to intensify the animosity of the inhabitants against the French. Speeches were made and presents exchanged to cement the friendship with the English. While these conferences were going on, a deputation of Indians in the French interests arrived, with soft words and valuable presents, marching into the village under French colors. The deputation was admitted to the council-house, that they might make the object of their visit known. The Piankashaw chief, or king, "Old Britton," as he was called, on account of his attachment for the English, had both the British and French flags hoisted from the council-house. The old chief refused the brandy, tobacco and other presents sent to him from the French king. In reply to the speeches of the French ambassadors he said that the road to the French had been made foul and bloody by them; that he had cleared a road to our brothers, the English, and that the French had made that bad. The French flag was taken down, and the emissaries

\* Christopher Gist's Journal.

of that people, with their presents, returned to the French post from whence they came.

When negotiations failed to win the Miamis back to French authority, force was resorted to. On the 21st of June, 1752, a party of two hundred and forty French and Indians appeared before Pickawillany, surprised the Indians in their corn-fields, approaching so suddenly that the white men who were in their houses had great difficulty in reaching the fort. They killed one Englishman and fourteen Miamis, captured the stockade fort, killed the old Piankashaw king, and put his body in a kettle, boiled it and ate it up in retaliation for his people having killed the French traders on the Vermilion River and at Vincennes.\* “Thus,” says the eloquent historian, George Bancroft, “on the alluvial lands of western Ohio began the contest that was to scatter death broadcast through the world.”†

\* The account of the affair at Pickawillany is summarized from the Journal of Capt. Wm. Trent and other papers contained in a valuable book edited by A. T. Goodman, secretary of the Western Reserve Historical Society, and published by Robert Clarke & Co., 1871, entitled “Journal of Captain Trent.”

† Old Britton's successor was his son, a young man, whose name was *Mu-she-gu-a-nock-que*, or “The Turtle.” The English, and Indians in their interests, had a very high esteem for the young Piankashaw king. It is said by some writers, and there is much probability of the correctness of their opinion, that the great Miami chief, Little Turtle, was none other than the person here referred to. His age would correspond very well with that of the Piankashaw, and members of one band of the Miami nation frequently took up their abode with other bands or families of their kindred.

## CHAPTER XXI.

### THE WAR FOR THE EMPIRE. ITS LOSS TO THE FRENCH.

THE English not only disputed the right of the French to the fur trade, but denied their title to the valley of the Mississippi, which lay west of their American colonies on the Atlantic coast. The grants from the British crown conveyed to the chartered proprietors all of the country lying between certain parallels of latitude, according to the location of the several grants, and extending westward to the South Sea, as the Pacific was then called. Seeing the weakness of such a claim to vast tracts of country, upon which no Englishman had ever set his foot, they obtained deeds of cession from the Iroquois Indians,—the dominant tribe east of the Mississippi,—who claimed all of the country between the Alleghanies and the Mississippi by conquest from the several Algonquin tribes, who occupied it. On the 13th of July, 1701, the sachems of the Five Nations conveyed to William III, King of Great Britain, “their beaver-hunting grounds northwest and west from Albany,” including a broad strip on the south side of Lake Erie, all of the present states of Michigan, Ohio and Indiana, and Illinois as far west as the Illinois River, claiming “that their ancestors did, more than fourscore years before, totally conquer, subdue and drive the former occupants out of that country, and had peaceable and quiet possession of the same, to hunt beavers in, it being the only chief place for hunting in that part of the world,” etc.\* The Iroquois, for themselves and heirs, granted the English crown “the whole soil, the lakes, the

\* The deed is found in London Documents, vol. 4, p. 908. The boundaries of the grant are indefinite in many respects. Its westward limit, says the deed, “abutts upon the Twichtwicks [Miamis], and is bounded on the right hand by a place called *Quadoge*.” On Eman Bowen’s map, which is certainly the most authentic from the British standpoint, is a “pecked line” extending from the mouth of the Illinois river, up that stream, to the Desplaines, thence across the prairies to Lake Michigan at Quadoge or Quadaghe, which is located on the map some distance southeast of Chicago, which is also shown in its correct place, and at or near the mouth of the stream that forms the harbor at Michigan City, formerly known by the French as *Riviere du Chemin*, or “Trail River,” because the great trail from Chicago to Detroit and Ft. Wayne left the lake shore at this place. The “pecked line,”—as Mr. Bowen calls the dotted line which he traces as the boundary of the Iroquois deed of cession,—extends from Michigan City northward through the entire length of Lake Michigan, the Straits of Mackinaw and between the Manitou-lin islands and the main shore in Lake Huron; thence into Canada around the north shore of Lake Nipissing; and thence down the Ottawa River to its confluence with the St. Lawrence.



rivers, and all things pertaining to said tract of land, with power to erect forts and castles there," only reserving to the grantors and "their descendants forever the right of hunting upon the same," in which privilege the grantee "was expected to protect them." The grant of the Iroquois was confirmed to the British crown by deeds of renewal in 1726 and 1744. The reader will have observed, from what has been said in the preceding chapters upon the Illinois and Miamis and Pottawatomies relative to the pretended conquests of the Iroquois, how little merit there was in the claim they set up to the territory in question. Their war parties only raided upon the country,—they never occupied it; their war parties, after doing as much mischief as they could, returned to their own country as rapidly as they came. Still their several deeds to the English crown were a "color of title" on which the latter laid great stress, and paraded at every treaty with other powers, where questions involving the right to this territory were a subject of discussion.\*

The war for the fur trade expanded into a struggle for empire that convulsed both continents of America and Europe. The limit assigned this work forbids a notice of the principal occurrences in the progress of the French-Colonial War, as most of the military movements in that contest were outside of the territory we are considering. There were, however, two campaigns conducted by troops recruited in the northwest, and these engagements will be noticed. We believe they have not heretofore been compiled as fully as their importance would seem to demand.

In 1758 Gen. Forbes, with about six thousand troops, advanced against Fort Du Quesne.† In mid-September the British troops had only reached Loyal-hannon,‡ where they raised a fort. "Intelligence had been received that Fort Du Quesne was defended by but eight hundred men, of whom three hundred were Indians,"§ and Major Grant, commanding eight hundred Highlanders and a company of Virginians, was sent toward the French fort. On the third

\* The Iroquois themselves,—as appears from an English memoir on the Indian trade, and contained among the London Documents, vol. 7, p. 18,—never supposed they had actually conveyed their right of dominion to these lands. Indeed, it appears that the Indians generally could not comprehend the purport of a deed or grant in the sense that the Europeans attach to these formidable instruments. The idea of an absolute, fee-simple right of an individual, or of a body of persons, to exclusively own real estate against the right of others even to enter upon it, to hunt or cut a shrub, was beyond the power of an Indian to comprehend. From long habit and the ownership (not only of land but many articles of domestic use) by the tribe or village of property in common, they could not understand how it could be held otherwise.

† At the present site of Pittsburgh, Pa.

‡ Loyal-hannon, afterward Fort Ligonier, was situated on the east side of Loyal-hannon Creek, Westmoreland county, Pa., and was about forty-five miles from Fort Du Quesne; *vide* Pennsylvania Archives, XII, 389.

§ Bancroft, vol. iv, p. 311.

day's march Grant had arrived within two miles of Fort Du Quesne. Leaving his baggage there, he took position on a hill, a quarter of a mile from the fort, and encamped.\*

Grant, who was not aware that the garrison had been reinforced by the arrival of Mons. Aubry, commandant at Fort Chartes, with four hundred men from the Illinois country, determined on an ambuscade. At break of day Major Lewis was sent, with four hundred men, to lie in ambush a mile and a half from the main body, on the path on which they left their baggage, imagining the French would send a force to attack the baggage guard and seize it. Four hundred men were posted along the hill facing the fort to cover the retreat of MacDonald's company, which marched with drums beating toward the fort, in order to draw a party out of it, as Major Grant had reason to believe there were, including Indians, only two hundred men within it.†

M. de Ligneris, commandant at Fort Du Quesne, at once assembled seven or eight hundred men, and gave the command to M. Aubry.‡ The French sallied out of the fort, and the Indians, who had crossed the river to keep out of the way of the British, returned and made a flank movement. Aubry, by a rapid movement, attacked the different divisions of the English, and completely routed and dispersed them. The force under Major Lewis was compelled to give way. Being flanked, a number were driven into the river, most of whom were drowned. The English lost two hundred and seventy killed, forty-two wounded, and several prisoners; among the latter was Grant.

On the 22d of September M. Aubry left Fort Du Quesne, with a force of six hundred French and Indians, intending to reconnoitre the position of the English at Loyal-hannon.

"He found a little camp in front of some intrenchments which would cover a body of two thousand men. The advance guard of the French detachment having been discovered, the English sent a captain and fifty men to reconnoitre, who fell in with the detachment and were entirely defeated. In following the fugitives the French fell upon this camp, and surprised and dispersed it.

"The fugitives scarcely gained the principal intrenchment, which M. Aubry held in blockade two days. He killed two hundred horses and cattle." The French returned to Fort Du Quesne mounted.§ "The English lost in the engagement one hundred and fifty men,

\* The hill has ever since borne Grant's name.

† Craig's History of Pittsburgh, p. 74.

‡ Garneau's History of Canada, Bell's translation, vol. 2, p. 214.

§ Pouchot's Memoir, p. 130.

killed, wounded and missing. The French loss was two killed and seven wounded.”

The Louisiana detachment, which took the principal part in both of these battles, was recruited from the French posts in “The Illinois,” and consisted of soldiers taken from the garrison in that territory, and the *coureurs des bois*, traders and settlers in their respective neighborhoods. It was the first battalion ever raised within the limits of the present states of Illinois, Indiana and Michigan. After the action of Loyal-hannon, “the Louisiana detachment, as well as those from Detroit, returned home.”\*

Soon after their departure, and on the 24th of November, the French abandoned Fort Du Quesne. Pouchot says: “It came to pass that by blundering at Fort Du Quesne the French were obliged to abandon it for want of provisions.” This may have been the true reason for the abandonment, but doubtless the near approach of a large English army, commanded by Gen. Forbes, had no small influence in accelerating their movements. The fort was a mere stockade, of small dimensions, and not suited to resist the attacks of artillery.†

Having burnt the stockade and storehouses, the garrison separated. One hundred retired to Presque Isle, by land. Two hundred, by way of the Alleghany, went to Venango. The remaining hundred descended the Ohio. About forty miles above its confluence with the Mississippi, and on a beautiful eminence on the north bank of the river, they erected a fort and named it Fort Massac, in honor of the commander, M. Massac, who superintended its construction. This was the last fort erected by the French on the Ohio, and it was occupied by a garrison of French troops until the evacuation of the country under the stipulations of the treaty of Paris. Such was the origin of Fort Massac, divested of the romance which fable has thrown around its name.”‡

\* Letter of Marquis Montcalm: Paris Documents, vol. 10, p. 901.

† Hildreth's Pioneer History, p. 42.

‡ Monette's Valley of the Mississippi, vol. 1, p. 317. Gov. Reynolds, who visited the remains of Fort Massac in 1855, thus describes its remains: “The outside walls were one hundred and thirty-five feet square, and at each angle strong bastions were erected. The walls were palisades, with earth between the wood. A large well was sunk in the fortress, and the whole appeared to have been strong and substantial in its day. Three or four acres of gravel walks were made on the north of the fort, on which the soldiers paraded. The walks were made in exact angles, and beautifully graveled with pebbles from the river. The site is one of the most beautiful on La Belle Rivere, and commands a view of the Ohio that is charming and lovely. French genius for the selection of sites for forts is eminently sustained in their choice of Fort Massacre.” The Governor states that the fort was first established in 1711, and “was enlarged and made a respectable fortress in 1756.” *Vide* Reynolds' Life and Times, pp. 28, 29. This is, probably, a mistake. There are no records in the French official documents of any military post in that vicinity until the so-called French and Indian war.



On the day following the evacuation, the English took peaceable possession of the smoking ruins of Fort Du Quesne. They erected a temporary fortification, named it Fort Pitt, in honor of the great English statesman of that name, and leaving two hundred men as a garrison, retired over the mountains.

On the 5th of December, 1758, Thomas Pownall, governor of Massachusetts Bay Province, addressed a memorial to the British Ministry, suggesting that there should be an entire change in the method of carrying on the war. Pownall stated that the French were superior in battles fought in the wilderness; that Canada never could be conquered by land campaigns; that the proper way to succeed in the reduction of Canada would be to make an attack on Quebec by sea, and thus, by cutting off supplies from the home government, Canada would be starved out.\*

Pitt, if he did not act on the recommendations of Gov. Pownall, at least had similar views, and the next year (1759), in accordance with this plan, Gen. Wolfe made a successful assault on Quebec, and from that time, the supplies and reinforcements from the home government being cut off, the cause of the French in Canada became almost hopeless.

During this year the French made every effort to stir up the Indians north of the Ohio to take the tomahawk and scalping-knife in hand, and make one more attempt to preserve the northwest for the joint occupancy of the Gallic and American races. Emissaries were sent to Lake Erie, Detroit, Mackinaw, Ouiatanon, Vincennes, Kaskaskia and Fort Chartes, loaded with presents and ammunition, for the purpose of collecting all those stragglers who had not enterprise enough to go voluntarily to the seat of war. Canada was hard pressed for soldiers; the English navy cut off most of the rein-

\* Pownall's Administration of the Colonies, Appendix, p. 57. Thomas Pownall, born in England in 1720, came to America in 1753; was governor of Massachusetts Bay, and subsequently was appointed governor of South Carolina. He was highly educated, and possessed a thorough knowledge of the geography, history and policy of both the French and English colonies in America. His work on the "Administration of the American Colonies" passed through many editions. In 1756 he addressed a memorial to His Highness the Duke of Cumberland, on the conduct of the colonial war, in which he recommended a plan for its further prosecution. The paper is a very able one. Much of it compiled from the official letters of Marquis Vaudreuil, Governor-General of Canada, written between the years 1743 and 1752, showing the policy of the French, and giving a minute description of their settlements, military establishments in the west, their manner of dealing with the Indians, and a description of the river communications of the French between their possessions in Canada and Louisiana. In 1776 he revised Evans' celebrated map of the "Middle British Provinces in America." After his return to England he devoted himself to scientific pursuits. He was a warm friend of the American colonists in the contest with the mother country, and denounced the measures of parliament concerning the colonies as harsh and wholly unwarranted, and predicted the result that followed. He died in 1805.

forcements from France, while the English, on the contrary, were constantly receiving troops from the mother country.

Mons. de Aubry, commandant at Fort Chartes, persuaded four hundred men from the "Illinois country" to follow him eastward. Taking with him two hundred thousand pounds of flour, he embarked his heterogeneous force in bateaux and canoes. The route by way of the Ohio was closed; the English were in possession of its headwaters. He went down the Mississippi, thence up the Ohio to the mouth of the Wabash. Having ascended the latter stream to the Miami villages, near the present site of Fort Wayne, his followers made the portage, passed down the Maumee, and entered Lake Erie.

During the whole course of their journey they were being constantly reinforced by bands of different tribes of Indians, and by Canadian militia as they passed the several posts, until the army was augmented to sixteen hundred men, of whom there were six hundred French and one thousand Indians. An eye-witness, in speaking of the appearance of the force, said: "When they passed the little rapid at the outlet of Lake Erie (at Buffalo) the flotilla appeared like a floating island, as the river was covered with their bateaux and canoes."\*

Aubry was compelled to leave his flour and provisions at the Miami portage. He afterward requested M. de Port-neuf, commandant at Presque Isle, to take charge of the portage, and to send it constantly in his bateaux.†

Before Aubry reached Presque Isle he was joined by other bodies of Indians and Canadians from the region of the upper lakes. They were under the command of French traders and commandants of interior posts. At Fort Machault‡ he was joined by M. de Lignery; the latter had assembled the Ohio Indians at Presque Isle.§ It was the original intention of Aubry to recapture Fort Du Quesne from the English. On the 12th of July a grand council was held at Fort Machault, in which the commandant thanked the Indians for their attendance, threw down the war belt, and told them he would set out the next day for Fort Du Quesne. Soon after messengers arrived with a packet of letters for the officers. After reading them Aubry told the Indians: "Children, I have received bad news; the English are gone against Niagara. We must give over thoughts of going down the river to Fort Du Quesne till we have cleared that place of

\* Pouchot's Memoirs, vol. 1, pp. 186, 187

† Idem, p. 152.

‡ Located at the mouth of French Creek, Pennsylvania.

§ Idem, 187.

the enemy. If it should be taken, our road to you is stopped, and you must become poor." Orders were immediately given to proceed with the artillery, provisions, etc., up French Creek, and the Indians prepared to follow.\*

These letters were from M. Pouchot, commandant at Niagara,† and stated that he was besieged by a much superior force of English and Indians, who were under the command of Gen. Predeaux and Sir William Johnson. Aubry answered these letters on the next day, and said he thought they might fight the enemy successfully, and compel them to raise the siege. The Indians who brought these messages to Pouchot informed him that they, on the part of the Indians with Aubry and Lignery, had offered the Iroquois and other Indian allies of the English five war belts if they would retire. These promised that they would not mingle in the quarrel. "We will here recall the fact that Pouchot, by his letter of the 10th, had notified Lignery and Aubry that the enemy might be four or five thousand strong without the Indians, and if they could put themselves in condition to attack so large a force, he should pass Chenondac to come to Niagara by the other side of the river, where he would be in condition to drive the English, who were only two hundred strong on that side, and could not easily be reinforced. This done, they could easily come to him, because after the defeat of this body they could send bateaux to bring them to the fort."

M. Pouchot now recalled his previous request, and informed Aubry that the enemy were in three positions, in one of which there were three thousand nine hundred Indians. He added, could Aubry succeed in driving the enemy from any of these positions, he had no doubt they would be forced to raise the siege.‡

Aubry's route was up French Creek to its head-waters, thence making the portage to Presque Isle and sailing along the shores of Lake Erie until he reached Niagara. Arriving at the foot of Lake Erie he left one hundred and fifty men in charge of his canoes, and with the remainder advanced toward Niagara. Sir William Johnson was informed, on the evening of the 23d, of this advance of the French, and ordered his light infantry and pickets to take post on the left, on the road between Niagara Falls and the fort; and these, after reinforcing them with grenadiers and parts of the 46th and 44th regiments, were so arranged as to effectually support the guard left

\* Extract from a letter dated July 17, 1759, of Col. Mercer, commandant at Fort Pitt, published in Craig's *Olden Time*, vol. 1, p. 194.

† Fort Niagara was one of the earliest French military posts, and situated on the right, or American shore of Lake Ontario, at the mouth of Niagara River. It has figured conspicuously in all of the wars on the lake frontier.

‡ Pouchot's *Memoirs*, vol. 1, pp. 186, 187, 188.



in the trenches. Most of his men were concealed either in the trenches or by trees.

On the morning of the 24th the French made their appearance. They were marching along a path about eight feet wide, and "were in readiness to fight in close order and without ranks or files." On their right were thirty Indians, who formed a front on the enemy's left. The Indians of the English army advanced to speak to those of the French. Seeing the Iroquois in the latter's company, the French Indians refused to advance, under pretext that they were at peace with the first named. Though thus abandoned by their chief force, Aubry and Lignery still proceeded on their way, thinking that the few savages they saw were isolated men, till they reached a narrow pathway, when they discovered great numbers beyond. The English Indians then gave the war-whoop and the action commenced. The English regulars attacked the French in front, while the Indians poured in on their flank. Thus surprised by an ambushade, and deserted by their savage allies, the French proved easy victims to the prowess of far superior numbers. They were assailed in front and rear by two thousand men. The rear of the column, unable to resist, gave way, and left the head exposed to the enemy's fire, which crushed it entirely. An Indian massacre followed, and the pursuit of the victors continued until they were compelled to desist by sheer fatigue. Almost all the French officers were killed, wounded or taken prisoners. Among the latter was Aubry. Those who escaped joined M. Rocheblave, and with his detachment retreated to Detroit and other western lake posts.\*

This defeat on the shores of Lake Erie was very severe on the struggling western settlements. Most all of the able-bodied men had gone with Aubry, many never to return. In 1760 M. de Mac-Carty, commandant at Fort Chartes, in a letter to Marquis Vaudreuil, stated that "the garrison was weaker than ever before, the check at Niagara having cost him the *élite* of his men."†

It is apparent, from the desertion of Aubry by his savage allies, that they perceived that the English were certain to conquer in the end. They felt no particular desire to prop a falling cause, and thus deserted Mons. Aubry at the crisis when their assistance was most needed. Thus was defeated the greatest French-Indian force ever collected in the northwest.‡

\* The account of this action has been compiled from Mante, p. 226; Pouchot, vol. 1, p. 192; and Garneau's History of Canada, vol. 2, pp. 250, 251, Bell's translation.

† Paris Documents, vol. 10, p. 1093.

‡ Aubry returned to Louisiana and remained there until after the peace of 1763. In 1765 he was appointed governor of Louisiana, and surrendered the colony, in March.

The next day after Aubry's defeat, near Fort Niagara, the fortress surrendered.

After the surrender of Niagara and Fort Du Quesne, the Indian allies of France retired to the deep recesses of the western forests, and the English frontiers suffered no more from their depredations. Settlements were gradually formed on the western side of the Alleghanies, and they remained secure from Indian invasions.

In the meantime many Canadians, becoming satisfied that the conquest of Canada was only a mere question of time, determined, before that event took place, to remove to the French settlements on the lower Mississippi. "Many of them accordingly departed from Canada by way of the lakes, and thence through the Illinois and Wabash Rivers to the Mississippi."\*

After the surrender of Quebec, in 1759, Montreal became the headquarters of the French in Canada, and in the spring of 1760 Mons. Levi, the French commander-in-chief, besieged Quebec. The arrival of an English fleet compelled him to relinquish his designs. Amherst and Johnson formed a junction, and advanced against Montreal. The French governor of Canada, Marquis Vaudreil, believing that further resistance was impossible, surrendered all Canada to the English. This included the western posts of Detroit, Mackinaw, Fort Miami, Ouiatanon, Vincennes, Fort St. Joseph, etc.

After this war ceased to be waged in America, though the treaty of Paris was not concluded until February, 1763, the most essential parts of which are contained in the following extracts:

"In order to establish peace on solid and durable foundations, and to remove forever all subjects of dispute with regard to the limits of the British and French territories on the continent of America, it is agreed that for the future the confines between the dominions of his Britannic Majesty and those of His Most Christian Majesty in that part of the world, shall be fixed irrevocably by a line drawn along the middle of the River Mississippi from its source to the River Iberville, and from thence by a line drawn along the middle of this river and the lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain, to the sea; and for this purpose the most Christian King cedes, in full right, and guarantees to his Britannic Majesty, the river and port of Mobile, and everything which he possesses, or ought to possess, on the left side of the Mississippi, with the exception of the town of 1766, to the Spanish governor, Ulloa. After the expulsion of Ulloa, he held the government until relieved by O'Reilly, in July, 1769. He soon afterward sailed for France. The vessel was lost, and Aubry perished in the depths of the sea.

\* Monette's Valley of the Mississippi, vol. 1, p. 305.

New Orleans and of the island on which it is situated; it being well understood that the navigation of the Mississippi shall be equally free, as well to the subjects of Great Britain as to those of France, in its whole length and breadth, from its source to the sea.”\*

Thus Gallic rule came to an end in North America. Its downfall was the result of natural causes, and was owing largely to the difference between the Frenchmen and the Englishmen. The former, as a rule, gave no attention to agriculture, but found occupation in hunting and trading with the Indians, acquiring nomadic habits that unfitted them for the cultivation of the soil; their families dwelt in villages separated by wide stretches of wilderness. While the able men were hunting and trading, the old men, women and children produced scanty crops sown in “common fields,” or inclosures of a piece of ground which were portioned off among the families of the village. The Englishman, on the other hand, loved to own land, and pushed his improvements from the coast line up through all the valleys extending westward. Reaching the summit of the Alleghanies, the tide of emigration flowed into the valleys beyond. Every cabin was a fort, every advancing farm a new line of intrenchment. The distinguishing characteristic of the Anglo-Saxon is consistency and firmness in his designs, and, more than all, his love for a home. In the trials and hardships necessarily connected with the opening up of the wilderness these traits come prominently into play. The result was, that the English colonies prospered in a degree hitherto unknown in the annals of the world’s progress. And by way of contrast, how little did the French have to show in the way of lasting improvements in the northwest after it had been in their possession for nearly a century!

However, the very traits that disqualified the Gaul as a successful colonist gave him a preëminent advantage over the Anglo-Saxon in the influence he exerted upon the Indian. He did not want their

\*“On the 3d day of the previous November, France, by a secret treaty ceded to Spain all her possessions west of the Mississippi. His Most Christian Majesty made known to the inhabitants of Louisiana the fact of the cession by a letter, dated April 21, 1764. Don Ulloa, the New Spanish governor, arrived at New Orleans in 1766. The French inhabitants objected to the transfer of Louisiana to Spain, and, resorting to arms, compelled Ulloa to return to Havana. In 1769, O'Reilly, with a Spanish force, arrived and took possession. He killed six of the ringleaders and sent others to Cuba. Spain remained in possession of Louisiana until March, 1801, when Louisiana was retroceded to the French republic. The French made preparations to occupy Louisiana, and an army of twenty-five thousand men was designed for that territory, but the fleet and army were suddenly blockaded in one of the ports of Holland by an English squadron. This occurrence, together with the gloomy aspect of affairs in Europe, induced Napoleon, who was then at the head of the French republic, to cede Louisiana to the United States. The treaty was dated April 30, 1803. The actual transfer occurred in December of the same year.” *Vide Stoddard's Sketches of Louisiana*, pp. 71, 102.



lands; he fraternized with them, adopted their ways, and flattered and pleased them. The Anglo-Saxon wanted their lands. From the start he was clamorous for deeds and cessions of territory, and at once began crowding the Indian out of the country. "The Iroquois told Sir Wm. Johnson that they believed soon they should not be able to hunt a bear into a hole in a tree but some Englishman would claim a right to the property of it, as being found in *his* tree."\*

The happiness which the Indians enjoyed from their intercourse with the French was their perpetual theme; it was their golden age. "Those who are old enough to remember it speak of it with rapture, and teach their children to venerate it, as the ancients did the reign of Saturn. 'You call us your children,' said an aged chief to Gen. Harrison, 'why do you not make us happy, as our fathers the French did? They never took from us our lands, which, indeed, were in common between us. They planted where they pleased, and cut wood where they pleased, and so did we; but now, if a poor Indian attempts to take a little bark from a tree to cover him from the rain, up comes a white man and threatens to shoot him, claiming the tree as his own.'"+

\* Pownall's Administration of the Colonies.

† Memoirs of Gen. Harrison, p. 134.

## CHAPTER XXII.

### PONTIAC'S WAR TO RECOVER THE NORTHWEST FROM THE ENGLISH.

AFTER the surrender of Canada to the English by the Marquis Vaudreuil, Sir Jeffery Amherst, commander-in-chief of His Majesty's forces in North America, ordered Major Robert Rogers to ascend the lakes and take possession of the western forts. On the 13th of September Rogers, with two hundred of his rangers, left Montreal. After weeks of weary traveling, they reached the mouth of Cuyahoga River, the present site of Cleveland, on the 7th of November. Here they were met by Pontiac, a celebrated Ottawa chieftain, who asked Rogers what his intentions were, and how he dared enter that country without his permission. Rogers replied that the French had been defeated; that Canada was surrendered into the hands of the British; and that he was on his way to take possession of Detroit, Mackinaw, Miamis and Ouitanon. He also proposed to restore a general peace to white men and Indians alike. "Pontiac listened with attention, but only replied that he should stand in the path of the English until morning." In the morning he returned, and allowed the English to advance. He said there would be no trouble so long as they treated him with deference and respect.

Embarking on the 12th of November, they arrived in a few days at Maumee Bay, at the western end of Lake Erie. The western Indians, to the number of four hundred, had collected at the mouth of Detroit River. They were determined to massacre the entire party under Rogers. It afterward appeared that they were acting under the influence of the French commandant at Detroit. Rogers prevailed upon Pontiac to use his influence to induce the warlike Indians to disband. After some parleying, Pontiac succeeded, and the road was open to Detroit.

Before his arrival at Detroit Rogers had sent in advance Lieutenant Brehm with a letter to Captain Beletre, the commandant, informing the latter that his garrison was included in the surrender of Canada. Beletre wholly disregarded the letter. He declared he thought it was a trick of the English, and that they intended to obtain possession of his fortress by treachery. He made use of every endeavor to excite the Indians against the English. "He

displayed upon a pole, before the yelling multitude, the effigy of a crow pecking a man's head, the crow representing himself, and the head, observes Rogers, 'being meant for my own.' '\*

Rogers then sent forward Captain Campbell "with a copy of the capitulation and a letter from the Marquis Vaudreuil, directing that the place should be given up in accordance with the articles agreed upon between him and General Amherst." The French commandant could hold out no longer, and, much against his will, was compelled to deliver the fortress to the English. The lilies of France were lowered from the flagstaff, and their place was taken by the cross of St. George. Seven hundred Indian warriors and their families, all of whom had aided the French by murdering innocent women and children on the frontiers of Pennsylvania and New York, greeted the change with demoniacal yells of apparent pleasure; but concealed in their breasts was a natural dislike for the English. Dissembling for the present, they kept their hatred to themselves, for the late successes of British arms had awed them into silence.

It was on the 29th of November, 1760, that Detroit was given over to the English. The garrison, as prisoners of war, were taken to Philadelphia.

Rogers sent an officer up the Maumee, and from thence down the Wabash, to take possession of the posts at the portage and at Ouiatanon. Both of these objects were attained without any difficulty.

On account of the lateness of the season the detachment which had started for Mackinaw returned to Detroit, and all efforts against the posts on the upper lakes were laid aside until the following season. In that year the English took possession of Mackinaw, Green Bay and St. Joseph. The French still retained possession of Vincennes and Fort Chartes.†

It always was the characteristic policy of the French to render the savages dependent upon them, and with that design in view they had earnestly endeavored to cultivate among the Indians a desire for European goods. By prevailing upon the Indians to throw aside hides and skins of wild beasts for clothing of European manufacture, to discontinue the use of their pottery for cooking utensils of iron, to exchange the bow and arrow and stone weapons for the gun, the knife and hatchet of French manufacture, it was thought that in the course of one or two generations they would become dependent upon their French neighbors for the common necessities of life. When

\* Parkman's Conspiracy of Pontiac, p. 150.

† This account of the delivery of the western forts to Rogers has been collated from his Journal and from Parkman's Conspiracy of Pontiac.



this change in their customs had taken place, by simply withholding the supply of ammunition they could coerce the savages to adopt any measures that the French government saw fit to propose. The policy of the French was not to force, but to lead, the savages into subjection. They told the barbarians that they were the children of the great king, who had sent his people among them to preserve them from their implacable enemies, the English. Flattering them, asking their advice, bestowing upon them presents, and, above all, showing them respect and deference, the French gained the good will of the savages in a degree that no other European nation ever equaled. After the surrender of the western posts all this was changed. The accustomed presents formerly bestowed upon them were withheld. English traders robbed, bullied and cheated them. English officers treated them with rudeness and contempt. But, most of all, the steady advance of the English colonists over the mountains, occupying their lands, driving away their game, and forcing them to retire farther west, alarmed and exasperated the aborigines to the limit of endurance. "The wrongs and neglect the Indians felt were inflamed by the French *coureurs de bois* and traders. They had every motive to excite the tribes against the English, such as their national rancor, their religious antipathies, and most especially the fear of losing the profitable Indian trade." Every effort was made to excite and inflame the slumbering passions of the tribes of the Northwest. Secret councils were held, and different plans for obtaining possession of the western fortresses were discussed. The year after Rogers obtained Detroit there was, in the summer, an outbreak, but it was easily quelled, being only local. The next year, also, there was another disturbance, but it, like the former, did not spread.

During these two years one Indian alone,—Pontiac,—comprehended the situation. He read correctly the signs and portents of the times. He well knew that English supremacy on the North American continent meant the destruction of his race. He saw the great difference between the English and the French. The former were settlers, the latter traders. The French came to the far west for their beaver skins and peltries, while the English would only be satisfied with their lands. Pontiac soon arrived at the conclusion that unless the ceaseless flow of English immigration was stopped, it would not be many decades before the Indian race would be driven from the face of the earth. Well has time justified this opinion of the able Indian chieftain!

To accomplish his designs, Pontiac was well aware that he must induce all the tribes of the northwest to join him. Even then he

had doubts of final success. To encourage him, the French traders informed him "that the English had stolen Canada while their common father was asleep at Versailles; that he would soon awaken and again wrest his domains from the intruders; that even now large French armies were on their way up the St. Lawrence and Mississippi rivers." Pontiac believed these tales, for let it be borne in mind that this was previous to the treaty of Paris, and late in the autumn of 1762 he sent emissaries with black wampum and the red tomahawk to the villages of the Ottawas, Pottawatomies, Sacs, Foxes, Menominees, Illinois, Miamis, Shawnees, Delawares, Wyandots, Kickapoos and Senecas. These emissaries were instructed to inform the various tribes that the English had determined to exterminate the northwestern Indians; to accomplish this they intended to erect numerous fortifications in the territory named; and also that the English had induced the southern Indians to aid them.\* To avert these inimical designs of the English, the messengers of Pontiac proposed that on a certain day all the tribes, by concerted action, should seize all the English posts and then attack the whole English border.

Pontiac's plan was contrived and developed with wonderful secrecy, and all of a sudden the conspiracy burst its fury simultaneously over all the forts held by the British west of the Alleghanies. By stratagem or forcible assault every garrison west of Pittsburgh, excepting Detroit, was captured.

Fort St. Joseph, on the river of that name, in the present state of Michigan, was captured by the Pottawatomies. These emissaries of Pontiac collected about the fort on the 23d of May, 1763, and under the guise of friendship effected an entrance within the palisades, when they suddenly turned upon and massacred the whole garrison, except the commandant, Ensign Slussee and three soldiers, whom they made prisoners and sent to Detroit.

The Ojibbeways effected an entry within the defenses of Fort Mackinaw, the gate being left open while the Indians were amusing the officer and soldiers with a game of ball. In the play the ball was knocked over within the palisade. The players, hurrying through the gates, seemingly intent on regaining the ball, seized their knives and guns from beneath the blankets of their squaws, where they had been purposely concealed, and commenced an indiscriminate massacre.†

\* The Chickasaws and Cherokees were at that time, though on their own responsibility, waging war against some of the tribes of the northwest.

† A detailed account of this most horrible massacre is given by the fur-trader Alex-

Ensign Holmes, who was in command at Fort Miami,\* learned that to the Miamis in the vicinity of his post was allotted the destruction of his garrison. Holmes collected the Indians in an assembly, and charged them with forming a conspiracy against his post. They confessed; said that they were influenced by hostile Indians, and promised to relinquish their designs. The village of Pontiac was within a short distance of the post, and some of his immediate followers doubtless attended the assembly. Holmes supposed he had partially allayed their irritation, as appears from a letter written from him to Major Gladwyn.†

On the 27th of May a young Indian squaw, who was the mistress of Holmes, requested him to visit a sick Indian woman who lived in a wigwam near at hand. "Having confidence in the girl, Holmes followed her out of the fort." Two Indians, who were concealed behind the hut, as he approached it, fired and "stretched him lifeless on the ground." The sergeant rushed outside of the palisade to learn the cause of the firing. He was immediately seized by the Indians. The garrison, who by this time had become thoroughly alarmed, and had climbed upon the palisades, was ordered to surrender by one Godefroy, a Canadian. They were informed, if they submitted their lives would be spared, otherwise they all would be massacred. Having lost their officers and being in great terror, they threw open the gate and gave themselves up as prisoners. According to tradition, the garrison was afterward massacred.‡

Fort Ouiatanon was under the command of Lieut. Jenkins, who had no suspicion of any Indian troubles, and on the 1st of June, when he was requested by some of the Indians to visit them in their cabins near by, he unhesitatingly complied with the request. Upon his entering the hut he was immediately seized by the Indian warriors. Through various other stratagems of a similar nature several of the soldiers were also taken. Jenkins was then told to have the soldiers in the fort surrender. "For," said the Indians, "should your men kill one of our braves, we shall put you all to death."

ander Henry, an eye-witness and one of the few survivors, in his interesting *Book of Travels and Adventures*, p. 85.

\* Now Fort Wayne.

FORT MIAMIS, March 30th, 1763.

† Since my Last Letter to You, wherein I Acquainted You of the Bloody Belt being in this Village, I have made all the search I could about it, and have found it not to be True; Whereon I Assembled all the chiefs of this Nation, & after a long and troublesome Spell with them, I Obtained the Belt, with a Speech, as You will Receive Enclosed; This affair is very timely Stopt, and I hope the News of a Peace will put a Stop to any further Troubles with these Indians, who are the Principal Ones of Setting Mischief on Foot. I send you the Belt, with this Packet, which I hope You will Forward to the General.

‡ Brice's History of Fort Wayne.



Jenkins thinking that resistance would be useless, ordered the remaining soldiers to deliver the fort to the Indians. During the night the Indians resolved to break their plighted word, and massacre all their prisoners. Two of the French residents, M. M. Maigoville and Lorain, gave the Indians valuable presents, including wampum, brandy, etc., and thus preserved the lives of the English captives. Jenkins, in his letter to Major Gladwyn, commandant at Detroit, states that the Weas were not favorably inclined toward Pontiac's designs; but being coerced by the surrounding tribes, they undertook to carry out their part of the programme. Well did they succeed. Lieut. Jenkins, with the other prisoners, were, within a few days afterward, sent across the prairies of Illinois to Fort Chartres.

Detroit held out, though regularly besieged by Pontiac in person, for more than fifteen months, when, at last, the suffering garrison was relieved by the approach of troops under Gen. Bradstreet. In the meantime Pontiac confederates, wearied and disheartened by the protracted struggle, longed for peace. Several tribes abandoned the declining fortune of Pontiac; and finally the latter gave up the contest, and retired to the neighborhood of Fort Miamis. Here he remained for several months, when he went westward, down the Wabash and across the prairies to Fort Chartres. The latter fort remained in possession of a French officer, not having been as yet surrendered to the English, the hostility of the Indians preventing its delivery; and by agreements of the two governments, France and England, it was left in charge of the veteran St. Ange.

The English having acquired the territory herein considered, by conquest and treaty, from France, renewed their efforts to reclaim authority over it from its aboriginal inhabitants. To effect this object, they now resort to conciliation and diplomacy. They sent westward George Croghan.\*

After closing a treaty with the Indians at Fort Pitt, Croghan started on his mission on the 15th of May 1765, going down the Ohio in two bateaux. His movements were known to the hostile

\* Croghan was an old trader who had spent his life among the Indians, and was versed in their language, ways and habits of thought, and who well knew how to flatter and cajole them. Besides this, Croghan enjoyed the advantage of a personal acquaintance with many of the chiefs and principal men of the Wabash tribes, who had met him while trading at Pickawillany and other places where he had trading establishments. Among the Miami, Wea and Piankashaw bands Croghan had many Indian friends whose attachments toward him were very warm. He was a veteran, up to all the arts of the Indian council house, and had in years gone by conducted many important treaties between the authorities of New York and Pennsylvania with the Iroquois, Delawares and Shawnees. In the war for the fur trade Croghan suffered severely; the French captured his traders, confiscated his goods, and bankrupted his fortune.

tribes. A war party of eighty Kickapoos and Mascoutins, "spirited up" to the act by the French traders at Ouiatanon, as Croghan says in his Journal, left the latter place, and captured Croghan and his party at daybreak on the 8th of June, in the manner narrated in a previous chapter.\* He was carried to Vincennes, his captors conducting him a devious course through marshes, tangled forests and small prairie, to the latter place.†

After Croghan had procured wearing apparel (his captors had stripped him well-nigh naked) and purchased some horses he crossed the Wabash, and soon entered the great prairie which he describes in extracts we have already taken from his journal. His route was up through Crawford, Edgar and Vermilion counties, following the old traveled trail running along the divide between the Embarrass and the Wabash, and which was a part of the great highway leading from Detroit to Kaskaskia;‡ crossed the Vermilion River near Danville, thence along the trail through Warren county, Indiana. Croghan, still a prisoner in charge of his captors, reached Ouiatanon on the afternoon of the 23d of June.§ Here the Weas,

\* P. 161.

† Croghan, in his Journal, says: "I found Vincennes a village of eighty or ninety French families, settled on the east side of the river, being one of the finest situations that can be found. The French inhabitants hereabouts are an idle, lazy people, a parcel of renegadoes from Canada, and are much worse than the Indians. They took secret pleasure at our misfortune, and the moment we arrived they came to the Indians, exchanging trifles for their valuable plunder. Here is likewise an Indian village of Piankashaws, who were much displeased with the party that took me, telling them that 'our and your chiefs are gone to make peace, and you have begun war, for which our women and children will have reason to cry.' Port Vincent is a place of great consequence for trade, being a fine hunting country all along the Wabash."

‡ That part of the route from Kaskaskia east, from the earliest settlement of Illinois and Indiana, was called "the old Vincennes trace." "This trace," says Gov. Reynolds, in his Pioneer History of Illinois, p. 79, "was celebrated in Illinois. The Indians laid it out more than one hundred and fifty years ago. It commenced at Detroit, thence to Ouiatanon, on the Wabash, thence to Vincennes and thence to Kaskaskia. It was the Appian way of Illinois in ancient times. It is yet (in 1852) visible in many places between Kaskaskia and Vincennes." It was also visible for years after the white settlements began, between the last place, the Vermilion and Ouiatanon, on the route described.—[AUTHOR.

§ Croghan says of Ouiatanon that there were "about fourteen French families living in the fort, which stands on the *north* side of the river; that the Kickapoos and Mascoutins, whose warriors had taken us, live *nigh* the fort, on the *same* side of the river, where they have *two* villages, and the Ouicatonons or Wawcottonans [as Croghan variously spells the name of the Weas] have a village on the *south* side of the river." "On the *south* side of the Wabash runs a high bank, in which are several very fine coal mines, and behind this bank is a very large meadow, clear for several miles." The printer made a mistake in setting up Croghan's manuscript, or else Croghan himself committed an unintentional error in his diary in substituting the word *south* for *north* in describing the *side of the river* on which the appearances of coal banks are found. The only locality on the banks of the Wabash, above the Vermilion, where the carboniferous shales resembling coal are exposed is on the west, or north bank, of the river, about four miles above Independence, at a place known as "*Black Rock*," which, says Prof. Collett, in his report on the geology of Warren county, Indiana, published in the Geological Survey of Indiana for 1873, pp. 224-5, "is a notable and romantic feature in the river scenery." "A precipitous or overhanging cliff exhibits an almost sheer descent of a

from the opposite side of the river, took great interest in Mr. Croghan, and were deeply "concerned at what had happened. They charged the Kickapoos and Mascoutins to take the greatest care of him, and the Indians and white men captured with him, until their chiefs should arrive from Fort Chartres, whither they had gone, some time before, to meet him, and who were necessarily ignorant of his being captured on his way to the same place." From the 4th to the 8th of July Croghan held conferences with the Weas, Piankeshaws, Kickapoos and Mascoutins, in which, he says, "I was lucky enough to reconcile those nations to His Majesty's interests, and obtained their consent to take possession of the posts in their country which the French formerly possessed, and they offered their services should any nation oppose our taking such possession, all of which they confirmed by four large pipes."\* On the 11th a messenger arrived from Fort Chartres requesting the Indians to take Croghan and his party thither; and as Fort Chartres was the place to which he had originally designed going, he desired the chiefs to get ready to set out with him for that place as soon as possible. On the 13th the chiefs from "the Miamis" came in and renewed their "ancient friendship with His Majesty." On the 18th Croghan, with his party and the chiefs of the Miami and other tribes we have mentioned, forming an imposing procession, started off across the country toward Fort Chartres. On the way (neither Croghan's official report or his private journal show the place) they met the great "Pontiac himself, together with the deputies of the Iroquois, Delawares and Shawnees,† who had gone on around to Fort Chartres with Capt.

hundred and forty feet to the Wabash, at its foot. The top is composed of yellow, red, brown or black conglomerate sandrock, highly ferruginous, and in part pebbly. At the base of the sandrock, where it joins upon the underlying carbonaceous and pyritous shales are 'pot' or 'rock-houses,' which so constantly accompany this formation in southern Indiana. Some of these, of no great height, have been tunneled back under the cliff to a distance of thirty or forty feet by force of the ancient river once flowing at this level." The position, in many respects, is like Starved Rock, on the Illinois, where La Salle built Fort St. Louis, and commands a fine view of the Wea plains, across the river eastward, and before the recent growth of timber, of an arm of the Grand Prairie to the westward. The stockade fort and trading-post of Ouiatanon has often been confounded with the Wea villages, which were strung for several miles along the margin of the prairie, near the river, between Attica and La Fayette, on the south or east side of the river; and some writers have mistaken it for the village of *Keth-tip-e-ca-nuk*, situated on the north bank of the Wabash River, near the mouth of the Tippecanoe. The fort was abandoned as a military post after its capture from the British by the Indians. It was always a place of considerable trade to the English, as well as the French. Thomas Hutchins, in his Historical and Topographical Atlas, published in 1778, estimates "the annual amount of skins and furs obtained at Ouiatanon at forty thousand dollars."

\* Croghan's official report to Sir Wm. Johnson: London Documents, vol. 7. p. 780.

† These last-named Indian deputies, with Mr. Frazer, had gone down the Ohio with Croghan, and thence on to Fort Chartres. Not hearing anything from Croghan, or knowing what had become of him, Pontiac and these Indian deputies, on learning that Croghan was at Ouiatanon, set out for that place to meet him.



Frazer. The whole party, with deputies from the Illinois Indians, now returned to Ouiatanon, and there held another conference, in which were settled all matters with the Illinois Indians. "Pontiac and the Illinois deputies agreed to everything which the other tribes had conceded in the previous conferences at Ouiatanon, all of which was ratified with a solemn formality of pipes and belts."\*

Here, then, upon the banks of the Wabash at Ouiatanon, did the Indian tribes, with the sanction of Pontiac, solemnly surrender possession of the northwest territory to the accredited agent of Great Britain.† Croghan and his party, now swollen to a large body by the accession of the principal chiefs of the several nations, set out "for the Miamis, and traveled the whole way through a fine rich bottom, alongside the Ouabache, arriving at Eel River on the 27th. About six miles up this river they found a small village of the *Twilightwee*, situated on a very delightful spot of ground on the bank of the river."‡ Croghan's private journal continues: "July 28th, 29th, 30th and 31st we traveled still alongside the Eel River, passing through fine clear woods and some good meadows, though not so large as those we passed some days before. The country is more overgrown with woods, the soil is sufficiently rich, and well watered with springs."

On the 1st of August they "arrived at the carrying place between the River Miamis and the Ouabache, which is about nine miles long in dry seasons, but not above half that length in freshets." "Within a mile of the *Twilightwee* village," says Croghan, "I was met by the chiefs of that nation, who received us very kindly. Most part of these Indians knew me, and conducted me to their village, where they immediately *hoisted* an *English flag* that *I* had formerly *given* them at *Fort Pitt*. The next day they held a council, after which they gave me up all the English prisoners they had, and expressed the pleasure it gave them to see [that] the unhappy differences which had embroiled the several nations in a war with their brethren, the English, were now so near a happy conclusion, and that peace was established in their country."§

\* Croghan's official report, already quoted.

† It is true that Pontiac, with deputies of all the westward tribes, followed Croghan to Detroit, where another conference took place; but this was only a more formal ratification of the surrender which the Indians declared they had already made of the country at Ouiatanon.

‡ The Miami Indian name of this village was *Ke-na-pa-com-aqua*. Its French name was A l'Anguille, or Eel River town. The Miami name of Eel River was *Kin-na-pee-kuah Sepe*, or Water Snake (the Indians call the eel a water-snake fish) River. The village was situated on the north bank of Eel River, about six miles from Logansport. It was scattered along the river for some three miles.

§ The following is Mr. Croghan's description of the "Miamis," as it appeared in

From the Miamis the party proceeded down the Maumee in canoes. "About ninety miles, continues the journal, from the Miamis or Twightwee we came to where a large river, that heads in a large '*lick*,' falls into the Miami River; this they call 'The Forks.' The Ottawas claim this country and hunt here.\* This nation formerly lived at Detroit, but are now settled here on account of the richness of the country, where game is always to be found in plenty."

From Defiance Croghan's party were obliged to drag their canoes several miles, "on account of the riff's which interrupt the navigation," at the end of which they came to a village of Wyandottes, who received them kindly. From thence they proceeded in their canoes to the mouth of the Maumee. Passing several large bays and a number of rivers, they reached the Detroit River on the 16th of August, and Detroit on the following morning.†

As for Pontiac, his fate was tragical. He was fond of the French, and often visited the Spanish post at St. Louis, whither many of his old friends had gone from the Illinois side of the river. One day in 1767, as is supposed, he came to Mr. St. Ange (this veteran soldier of France still remained in the country), and said he was going over to Cahokia to visit the Kaskaskia Indians. St. Ange endeavored to dissuade him from it, reminding him of the little friendship existing between him and the British. Pontiac's answer was: "Captain, I am a man. I know how to fight. I have always fought openly. They will not murder me, and if any one attacks me as a brave man,

1765: "The Twightwee *village* is situated on *both* sides of a river called *St. Joseph's*. This river, where it falls into the Miami River, about a quarter of a mile from this place, is one hundred yards wide, *on the east side of which stands a stockade fort somewhat ruinous*." The Indian village consists of about forty or fifty cabins, besides nine or ten French houses, a runaway colony from Detroit during the late Indian war; they were concerned in it, and being afraid of punishment came to this post, where they have ever since spirited up the Indians against the English. All the French residing here are a lazy, indolent people, fond of breeding mischief, and they should not be suffered to remain. The country is pleasant, the soil rich and well watered."

\*The place referred to is the mouth of the Auglaize, often designated as "The Forks" in many of the early accounts of the country. It may be noted that Croghan, like nearly all other early travelers, overestimates distances.

†Croghan describes Detroit as a large stockade "inclosing about eighty houses. It stands on the north side of the river on a high bank, and commands a very pleasant prospect for nine miles above and below the fort. The country is thick settled with French. Their plantations are generally laid out about three or four acres in breadth on the river, and eighty acres in depth; the soil is good, producing plenty of grain. All the people here are generally poor wretches, and consist of three or four hundred French families, a lazy, idle people, depending chiefly on the savages for their subsistence. Though the land, with little labor, produces plenty of grain, they scarcely raise as much as will supply their wants, in imitation of Indians, whose manners and customs they have entirely adopted, and cannot subsist without them. The men, women and children speak the Indian tongue perfectly well." At the conclusion of the lengthy conferences with the Indians, in which all matters were "settled to their satisfaction," Croghan set out from Detroit for Niagara, coasting along the north shore of Lake Erie in a birch canoe, arriving at the latter place on the 8th of October.

I am his match." Pontiac went over the river, was feasted, got drunk, and retired to the woods to sing medicine songs. In the meanwhile, an English merchant named Williamson bribed a Kaskaskia Indian with a barrel of rum and promises of a greater reward if he would take Pontiac's life. Pontiac was struck with a *pa-ka-ma-gon*—tomahawk, and his skull fractured, causing death. This murder aroused the vengeance of all the Indian tribes friendly to Pontiac, and brought about the war resulting in the almost total extermination of the Illinois nation. He was a remarkably fine-looking man, neat in his person, and tasty in dress and in the arrangement of his ornaments. His complexion is said to have approached that of the whites.\* St. Ange, hearing of Pontiac's death, kindly took charge of the body, and gave it a decent burial near the fort, the site of which is now covered by the city of St. Louis. "Neither mound nor tablet," says Francis Parkman, "marked the burial-place of Pontiac. For a mausoleum a city has arisen above the forest hue, and the race whom he hated with such burning rancor trample with unceasing footsteps over his forgotten grave."

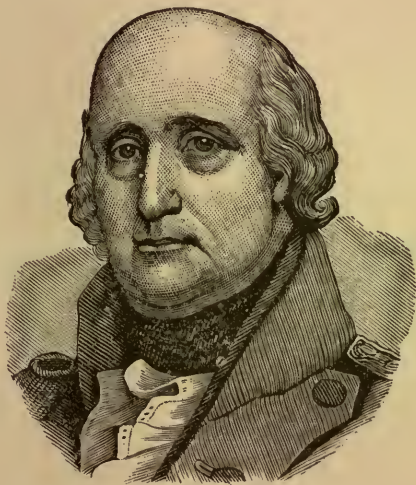
\*I. N. Nicollet's Report, etc., p. 81. Mr. Nicollet received his information concerning Pontiac from Col. Pierre Chouteau, of St. Louis, and Col. Pierre Menard, of Kaskaskia, who were personally acquainted with the facts.



## CHAPTER XXIII.

### GEN. CLARK'S CONQUEST OF "THE ILLINOIS."

AFTER the Indians had submitted to English rule the west enjoyed a period of quiet. When the American colonists, long complaining against the oppressive acts of the mother country, broke out into open revolt, and the war of the revolution fairly began, the English, from the westward posts of Detroit, Vincennes and Kaskaskia, incited the Indians against the frontier settlements, and from these depots supplied their war parties with guns and ammunition. The depredations of the Indians in Kentucky were so severe that in the fall of 1777 George Rogers Clark conceived, and next year executed, an expedition against the French settlements of Kaskaskia and Vincennes, which not only relieved Kentucky from the incursions of the savages, but at the same time resulted in consequences which are without parallel in the annals of the Northwest.\*



GEN. CLARK.

\* Gen. Clark was born in Albemarle county, Virginia, on the 19th of November, 1752, and died and was buried at Locust Grove, near Louisville, Kentucky, in February, 1818. He came to Kentucky in the spring of 1775, and became early identified as a conspicuous leader in the border wars of that country. The border settlers of Kentucky could not successfully contend against the numerous and active war parties from the Wabash who were continually lurking in their neighborhoods, coming, as Indians do, stealthily, striking a blow where least expected, and escaping before assistance could relieve the localities which they devastated, killing women and children, destroying live stock and burning the pioneers' cabins. Clark conceived the idea of capturing Vincennes and Kaskaskia. Keeping his plans to himself, he proceeded to Williamsburg and laid them before Patrick Henry, then governor of Virginia, who promptly aided in their execution. From Gov. Henry Clark received two sets of instructions, one, to enlist seven companies of men, *ostensibly* for the protection of the people of Kentucky, which at that time was a county of Virginia, the other, a *secret order*, to *attack the British post of Kaskaskia!* The result of his achievements was overshadowed by the stirring events of the revolution eastward of the Alleghanies, where other heroes were winning a glory that dazzled while it drew public attention exclusively to

The account here given of Clark's campaign in "The Illinois" is taken from a manuscript memoir composed by Clark himself, at the joint request of Presidents Jefferson and Madison.\* We prefer giving the account in Gen. Clark's own words, as far as practicable.

The memoir of Gen. Clark proceeds: "On the (24th) of June, 1778, we left our little island,† and run about a mile up the river in order to gain the main channel, and shot the falls at the very moment of the sun being in a great eclipse, which caused various conjectures among the superstitious. As I knew that spies were kept on the river below the towns of the Illinois, I had resolved to march part of the way by land, and of course left the whole of our baggage, except as much as would equip us in the Indian mode. The whole of our force, after leaving such as was judged not competent to [endure] the expected fatigue, consisted only of four companies, commanded by Captains John Montgomery, Joseph Bowman, Leonard Helm and William Harrod. My force being so small to what I expected, owing to the various circumstances already mentioned, I found it necessary to alter my plans of operation.

"I had fully acquainted myself that the French inhabitants in those western settlements had great influence among the Indians in general, and were more beloved by them than any other Europeans; that their commercial intercourse was universal throughout the western and northwestern countries, and that the governing interest on the lakes was mostly in the hands of the English, who were not much beloved by them. These, and many other ideas similar thereto, caused me to resolve, if possible, to strengthen myself by such train of conduct as might probably attach the French inhabitants to our interest, and give us influence in the country we were aiming for. These were the principles that influenced my future conduct, and, fortunately, I had just received a letter from Col.

them. The west was a wilderness,—excepting the isolated French settlements about Kaskaskia, and at Vincennes and Detroit,—and occupied only by savages and wild animals. It was not until after the great Northwest began to be settled, and its capabilities to sustain the empire,—since seated in its lap,—was realized, that the magnitude of the conquest forced itself into notice. The several states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin, carved out of the territory which he so gloriously won,—nay, the whole nation,—owe to the memory of George Rogers Clark a debt of gratitude that cannot be repaid in a mere expression of words. An account of his life and eminent services, worthy of the man, yet remains to be written.

\* Judge John B. Dillon, when preparing his first history of Indiana, in 1843, had access to Clark's original manuscript memoir, and copied copious extracts in the volume named, and it is from this source that the extracts appearing in this work were taken. This book of Judge Dillon is not to be confounded with a History of Indiana, prepared and published by him in 1859. His first book, although somewhat crude, is exceedingly valuable for the historical matter it contains relating to the whole Northwest, while the latter is a better digested history of the state of which he was an eminent citizen.

† At Louisville.

Campbell, dated Pittsburgh, informing me of the contents of the treaties\* between France and America. As I intended to leave the Ohio at Fort Massac, three leagues below the Tennessee, I landed on a small island in the mouth of that river, in order to prepare for the march. In a few hours after, one John Duff and a party of hunters coming down the river were brought to by our boats. They were men formerly from the states, and assured us of their happiness in the adventure. . . . They had been but lately from Kaskaskia, and were able to give us all the intelligence we wished. They said that Gov. Abbot had lately left Port Vincennes, and gone to Detroit on business of importance; that Mr. Rochblave commanded at Kaskaskia, etc.; that the militia was kept in good order, and spies on the Mississippi, and that all hunters, both Indians and others, were ordered to keep a good look-out for the rebels; that the fort was kept in good order as an asylum, etc., but they believed the whole to proceed more from the fondness for parade than the expectation of a visit; that if they received timely notice of us, they would collect and give us a warm reception, as they were taught to harbor a most horrid idea of the rebels, especially the Virginians; but that if we could surprise the place, which they were in hopes we might, they made no doubt of our being able to do as we pleased; that they hoped to be received as partakers in the enterprise, and wished us to put full confidence in them, and they would assist the guides in conducting the party. This was agreed to, and they proved valuable men.

“The acquisition to us was great, as I had no intelligence from those posts since the spies I sent twelve months past. But no part of their information pleased me more than that of the inhabitants viewing us as more savage than their neighbors, the Indians. I was determined to improve upon this if I was fortunate enough to get them into my possession, as I conceived the greater the shock I could give them at first the more sensibly would they feel my lenity, and become more valuable friends. This I conceived to be agreeable to human nature, as I had observed it in many instances. Having everything prepared, we moved down to a little gully a small distance above Massac, in which we concealed our boats, and set out a northwest course. The weather was favorable. In some parts water was scarce, as well as game. Of course we suffered drought and hunger, but not to excess. On the third day John

\*The timely information received of the alliance between the United States and France was made use of by Gen. Clark with his usual tact and with great success, as will be seen farther on.



Saunders, our principal guide, appeared confused, and we soon discovered that he was totally lost, without there was some other cause of his present conduct.

"I asked him various questions, and from his answers I could scarcely determine what to think of him,—whether or not that he was lost, or that he wished to deceive us. . . . The cry of the whole detachment was that he was a traitor. He begged that he might be suffered to go some distance into a plain that was in full view, to try to make some discovery whether or not he was right. I told him he might go, but that I was suspicious of him, from his conduct; that from the first day of his being employed he always said he knew the way well; that there was now a different appearance; that I saw the nature of the country was such that a person once acquainted with it could not in a short time forget it; that a few men should go with him to prevent his escape, and that if he did not discover and take us into the hunter's road that led from the east into Kaskaskia, which he had frequently described, I would have him immediately put to death, which I was determined to have done. But after a search of an hour or two he came to a place that he knew perfectly, and we discovered that the poor fellow had been, as they call it, bewildered.

"On the *fourth of July*, in the evening, we got within a few miles of the town, where we lay until near dark, keeping spies ahead, after which we commenced our march, and took possession of a house wherein a large family lived, on the bank of the Kaskaskia River, about three-quarters of a mile above the town. Here we were informed that the people a few days before were under arms, but had concluded that the cause of the alarm was without foundation, and that at that time there was a great number of men in town, but that the Indians had generally left it, and at present all was quiet. We soon procured a sufficiency of vessels, the more in case to convey us across the river.

"With one of the divisions I marched to the fort, and ordered the other two into different quarters of the town.\* If I met with no resistance, at a certain signal a general shout was to be given and certain parts were to be immediately possessed, and men of each detachment, who could speak the French language, were to run through every street and proclaim what had happened, and inform the inhabitants that every person that appeared in the streets would be shot down. This disposition had its desired effect. In a very little time we had complete possession, and every avenue was guarded to prevent any escape to give the alarm to the other villages in case of opposi-

tion. Various orders had been issued not worth mentioning. I don't suppose greater silence ever reigned among the inhabitants of a place than did at this at present; not a person to be seen, not a word to be heard by them, for some time, but, designedly, the greatest noise kept up by our troops through every quarter of the town, and patrols continually the whole night around it, as intercepting any information was a capital object, and in about two hours the whole of the inhabitants were disarmed, and informed that if one was taken attempting to make his escape he should be immediately put to death."

When Col. Clark, by the use of various bloodless means, had raised the terror of the French inhabitants to a painful height, he surprised them, and won their confidence and friendship, by performing, unexpectedly, several acts of justice and generosity. On the morning of the 5th of July a few of the principal men were arrested and put in irons. Soon afterward M. Gibault, the priest of the village, accompanied by five or six aged citizens, waited on Col. Clark, and said that the inhabitants expected to be separated, perhaps never to meet again, and they begged to be permitted to assemble in their church, and there to take leave of each other. Col. Clark mildly told the priest that he had nothing to say against his religion; that it was a matter which Americans left for every man to settle with his God; that the people might assemble in their church, if they would, but that they must not venture out of town.

Nearly the whole French population assembled at the church. The houses were deserted by all who could leave them, and Col. Clark gave orders to prevent any soldiers from entering the vacant buildings. After the close of the meeting at the church a deputation, consisting of M. Guibault and several other persons, waited on Col. Clark, and said "that their present situation was the fate of war, and that they could submit to the loss of their property, but they solicited that they might not be separated from their wives and children, and that some clothes and provisions might be allowed for their support." Clark feigned surprise at this request, and abruptly exclaimed, "Do you mistake us for savages? I am almost certain you do from your language! Do you think that Americans intend to strip women and children, or take the bread out of their mouths? My countrymen," said Clark, "disdain to make war upon helpless innocence. It was to prevent the horrors of Indian butchery upon our own wives and children that we have taken arms and penetrated into this remote stronghold of British and Indian barbarity, and not the despicable prospect of plunder; that now the

king of France had united his powerful arms with those of America, the war would not, in all probability, continue long, but the inhabitants of Kaskaskia were at liberty to take which side they pleased, without the least danger to either their property or families. Nor would their religion be any source of disagreement, as all religions were regarded with equal respect in the eye of the American law, and that any insult offered to it would be immediately punished."

"And now," Clark continues, "to prove my sincerity, you will please inform your fellow-citizens that they are quite at liberty to conduct themselves as usual, without the least apprehension. I am now convinced, from what I have learned since my arrival among you, that you have been misinformed and prejudiced against us by British officers, and your friends who are in confinement shall immediately be released."\* In a few minutes after the delivery of this speech the gloom that rested on the minds of the inhabitants of Kaskaskia had passed away. The news of the treaty of alliance between France and the United States, and the influence of the magnanimous conduct of Clark, induced the French villagers to take the oath of allegiance to the state of Virginia. Their arms were restored to them, and a volunteer company of French militia joined a detachment under Capt. Bowman, when that officer was dispatched to take possession of Cahokia. The inhabitants of this small village, on hearing what had taken place at Kaskaskia, readily took the oath of allegiance to Virginia.

The memoir of Clark proceeds: "Post Vincennes never being out of my mind, and from some things that I had learned I suspected that Mr. Gibault, the priest, was inclined to the American interest previous to our arrival in the country. He had great influence over the people at this period, and Post Vincennes was under his jurisdiction. I made no doubt of his integrity to us. I sent for him, and had a long conference with him on the subject of Post Vincennes. In answer to all my queries he informed me that he did not think it worth my while to cause any military preparation to be made at the Falls of the Ohio for the attack of Post Vincennes, although the place was strong and a great number of Indians in its neighborhood, who, to his knowledge, were generally at war; that the governor had, a few weeks before, left the place on some business to Detroit; that he expected that when the inhabitants were fully acquainted with what had passed at the Illinois, and the present happiness of their friends, and made fully acquainted with the nature of the war, their sentiments would greatly change; that he knew that his appearance

\* Clark's Memoir.



there would have great weight, even among the savages; that if it was agreeable to me he would take this business on himself, and had no doubt of his being able to bring that place over to the American interest without my being at the trouble of marching against it; that the business being altogether spiritual, he wished that another person might be charged with the temporal part of the embassy, but that he would privately direct the whole, and he named Dr. Lafont as his associate.

“This was perfectly agreeable to what I had been secretly aiming at for some days. The plan was immediately settled, and the two doctors, with their intended retinue, among whom I had a spy, set about preparing for their journey, and set out on the 14th of July, with an address to the inhabitants of Post Vincennes, authorizing them to garrison their own town themselves, which would convince them of the great confidence we put in them, etc. All this had its desired effect. Mr. Gibault and his party arrived safe, and after their spending a day or two in explaining matters to the people, they universally acceded to the proposal (except a few emissaries left by Mr. Abbot, who immediately left the country), and went in a body to the church, where the oath of allegiance was administered to them in a most solemn manner. An officer was elected, the fort immediately [garrisoned], and the American flag displayed to the astonishment of the Indians, and everything settled far beyond our most sanguine hopes. The people here immediately began to put on a new face, and to talk in a different style, and to act as perfect freemen. With a garrison of their own, with the United States at their elbow, their language to the Indians was immediately altered. They began as citizens of the United States, and informed the Indians that their old father, the king of France, was come to life again, and was mad at them for fighting for the English; that they would advise them to make peace with the Americans as soon as they could, otherwise they might expect the land to be very bloody, etc. The Indians began to think seriously; throughout the country this was the kind of language they generally got from their ancient friends of the Wabash and Illinois. Through the means of their correspondence spreading among the nations, our batteries began now to play in a proper channel. Mr. Gibault and party, accompanied by several gentlemen of Post Vincennes, returned to Kaskaskia about the 1st of August with the joyful news. During his absence on this business, which caused great anxiety to me (for without the possession of this post all our views would have been blasted), I was exceedingly engaged in regulating things in the Illi-

nois. The reduction of these posts was the period of the enlistment of our troops. I was at a great loss at the time to determine how to act, and how far I might venture to strain my authority. My instructions were silent on many important points, as it was impossible to foresee the events that would take place. To abandon the country, and all the prospects that opened to our view in the Indian department at this time, for the want of instruction in certain cases, I thought would amount to a reflection on government, as having no confidence in me. I resolved to usurp all the authority necessary to carry my points. I had the greater part of our [troops] reënlisted on a different establishment, commissioned French officers in the country to command a company of the young inhabitants, established a garrison at Cahokia, commanded by Capt. Bowman, and another at Kaskaskia, commanded by Capt. Williams. Post Vincennes remained in the situation as mentioned. Col. William Linn, who had accompanied us as a volunteer, took charge of a party that was to be discharged upon their arrival at the Falls, and orders were sent for the removal of that post to the mainland. Capt. John Montgomery was dispatched to government with letters. . . . I again turned my attention to Post Vincennes. I plainly saw that it would be highly necessary to have an American officer at that post. Capt. Leonard Helm appeared calculated to answer my purpose; he was past the meridian of life, and a good deal acquainted with the Indian [disposition]. I sent him to command at that post, and also appointed him agent for Indian affairs in the department of the Wabash. . . . About the middle of August he set out to take possession of his new command.\* Thus," says Clark, referring to

\* "An Indian chief called the Tobacco's Son, a Piankeshaw, at this time resided in a village adjoining Post Vincennes. This man was called by the Indians 'The Grand Door to the Wabash'; and as nothing of consequence was to be undertaken by the league on the Wabash without his assent, I discovered that to win him was an object of signal importance. I sent him a spirited compliment by Mr. Gibault; he returned it. I now, by Capt. Helm, touched him on the same spring that I had done the inhabitants, and sent a speech, with a belt of wampum, directing Capt. Helm how to manage if the chief was pacifically inclined or otherwise. The captain arrived safe at Post Vincennes, and was received with acclamations by the people. After the usual ceremony was over he sent for the Grand Door, and delivered my letter to him. After having read it, he informed the captain that he was happy to see him, one of the *Big Knife* chiefs, in this town; it was here he had joined the English against him; but he confessed that he always thought they looked gloomy; that as the contents of the letter were of great moment, he could not give an answer for some time; that he must collect his counsellors on the subject, and was in hopes the captain would be patient. In short, he put on all the courtly dignity that he was master of, and Capt. Helm following his example, it was several days before this business was finished, as the whole proceeding was very ceremonious. At length the captain was invited to the Indian council, and informed by Tobacco that they had maturely considered the case in hand, and had got the nature of the war between the English and us explained to their satisfaction; that as we spoke the same language and appeared to be the same people, he always thought that he was in the dark as to the truth of it, but now the sky was

Helm's success, "ended this valuable negotiation, and the saving of much blood. . . . In a short time almost the whole of the various tribes of the different nations on the Wabash, as high as the Ouia-tanon, came to Post Vincennes, and followed the example of the Grand Door Chief; and as expresses were continually passing between Capt. Helm and myself the whole time of these treaties, the business was settled perfectly to my satisfaction, and greatly to the advantage of the public. The British interest daily lost ground in this quarter, and in a short time our influence reached the Indians on the River St. Joseph and the border of Lake Michigan. The French gentlemen at the different posts we now had possession of engaged warmly in our interest. They appeared to vie with each other in promoting the business, and through the means of their correspondence, trading among the Indians, and otherwise, in a short time the Indians of various tribes inhabiting the region of Illinois came in great numbers to Cahokia, in order to make treaties of peace with us. From the information they generally got from the French gentlemen (whom they implicitly believed) respecting us, they were truly alarmed, and, consequently, we were visited by the greater part of them, without any invitation from us. Of course we had greatly the advantage in making use of such language as suited our [interest]. Those treaties, which commenced about the last of August and continued between three and four weeks, were probably, conducted in a way different from any other known in America at that time. I had been always convinced that our general conduct with the Indians was wrong; that inviting them to treaties was considered by them in a different manner from what we expected, and imputed by them to fear, and that giving them great presents confirmed it. I resolved to guard against this, and I took good pains to make myself acquainted fully with the French and Spanish methods of treating Indians, and with the manners, genius and disposition of the Indians in general. As in this quarter they had not yet been spoiled by us, I was resolved that they should not be. I began the business fully prepared, having copies of the British treaties."

At the first great council, which was opened at Cahokia, an Indian chief, with a belt of peace in his hand, advanced to the table at which

cleared up; that he found that the 'Big Knife' was in the right; that perhaps if the English conquered, they would serve them in the same manner that they intended to serve us; that his ideas were quite changed, and that he would tell all the red people on the Wabash to bloody the land no more for the English. He jumped up, struck his breast, called himself a man and a warrior, said that he was now a Big Knife, and took Capt. Helm by the hand. His example was followed by all present, and the evening was spent in merriment."



Col. Clark was sitting; another chief, bearing the sacred pipe of the tribe, went forward to the table, and a third chief then advanced with fire to kindle the pipe. When the pipe was lighted it was figuratively presented to the heavens, then to the earth, then to all the good spirits, to witness what was about to be done. After the observance of these forms the pipe was presented to Clark, and afterward to every person present. An Indian speaker then addressed the Indians as follows: "Warriors,—You ought to be thankful that the Great Spirit has taken pity on you, and cleared the sky and opened your ears and hearts, so that you may hear the truth. We have been deceived by bad birds flying through the land. But we will take up the bloody hatchet no more against the Big Knife,\* and we hope, as the Great Spirit has brought us together for good, as he is good, that we may be received as friends, and that the belt of peace may take the place of the bloody belt."

"I informed them," says Clark, "that I had paid attention to what they had said, and that on the next day I would give them an answer, when I hoped the ears and hearts of all people would be opened to receive the truth, which should be spoken without deception. I advised them to keep prepared for the result of this day, on which, perhaps, their very existence as a nation depended, etc., and dismissed them, not suffering any of our people to shake hands with them, as peace was not yet concluded, telling them it was time enough to give the hand when the heart could be given also. They replied that 'such sentiments were like men who had but one heart, and did not speak with a double tongue.' The next day I delivered them the following speech:

'Men and Warriors,—Pay attention to my words: You informed me yesterday that the Great Spirit had brought us together, and that you hoped, as he was good, that it would be for good. I have also the same hope, and expect that each party will strictly adhere to whatever may be agreed upon, whether it be peace or war, and henceforward prove ourselves worthy of the attention of the Great Spirit. I am a man and a warrior,—not a counsellor. I carry war in my

\*The early border men of Virginia and her county of Kentucky usually carried very large knives. From this circumstance the Virginians were called, in the Illinois (Miami) dialect, *She-mol-sea*, meaning the "Big Knife." At a later day the same appellation, under the Chippewyan word *Che-mo-ko-man*, was extended, by the Indians, to the white people generally,—always excepting the Englishman proper, whom they called the *Sag-e-nash*, and the Yankees to whom they gave the epithet of *Bos-to-ne-ly*, i.e., the Bostonians. The term is derived from the Miami word *mal-she*, or *mol-sea*, a knife, or the Ojibbeway *mo-ko-man*, which means the same thing. The prefix *che* or *she* emphasizes the kind or size of the instrument, as a huge, long or big knife. Such is the origin of the expression "long knives," frequently found in books where Indian characters occur.

right hand, and in my left, peace. I am sent by the great council of the Big Knife, and their friends, to take possession of all the towns possessed by the English in this country, and to watch the motions of the red people; to bloody the paths of those who attempt to stop the course of the river, but to clear the roads from us to those who desire to be in peace, that the women and children may walk in them without meeting anything to strike their feet against. I am ordered to call upon the Great Fire for warriors enough to darken the land, and that the red people may hear no sound but of birds who live on blood. I know there is a mist before your eyes. I will dispel the clouds, that you may clearly see the cause of the war between the Big Knife and the English, then you may judge for yourselves which party is in the right, and if you are warriors, as you profess to be, prove it by adhering faithfully to the party which you shall believe to be entitled to your friendship, and do not show yourselves to be squaws.

‘The Big Knives are very much like the red people. They don’t know how to make blankets and powder and cloth. They buy these things from the English, from whom they are sprung. They live by making corn, hunting and trade, as you and your neighbors, the French, do. But the Big Knives, daily getting more numerous, like the trees in the woods, the land became poor and hunting scarce, and having but little to trade with, the women began to cry at seeing their children naked, and tried to learn how to make clothes for themselves. They soon made blankets for their husbands and children, and the men learned to make guns and powder. In this way we did not want to buy so much from the English. They then got mad with us, and sent strong garrisons through our country, as you see they have done among you on the lakes, and among the French. They would not let our women spin, nor our men make powder, nor let us trade with anybody else. The English said we should buy everything of them, and since we had got saucy we should give two bucks for a blanket, which we used to get for one; we should do as they pleased; and they killed some of our people, to make the rest fear them. This is the truth, and the real cause of the war between the English and us, which did not take place until some time after this treatment.

‘But our women became cold and hungry and continued to cry. Our young men got lost for want of counsel to put them in the right path. The whole land was dark. The old men held down their heads for shame, because they could not see the sun; and thus there was mourning for many years over the land. At last the Great

Spirit took pity on us, and kindled a great council fire, that never goes out, at a place called Philadelphia. He then stuck down a post, and put a war tomahawk by it, and went away. The sun immediately broke out, the sky was blue again, and the old men held up their heads and assembled at the fire. They took up the hatchet, sharpened it, and put it into the hands of our young men, ordering them to strike the English as long as they could find one on this side of the great waters. The young men immediately struck the war post and blood was shed. In this way the war began, and the English were driven from one place to another until they got weak, and then they hired you red people to fight for them. The Great Spirit got angry at this, and caused your old father, the French king, and other great nations, to join the Big Knives, and fight with them against all their enemies. So the English have become like deer in the woods, and you may see that it is the Great Spirit that has caused your waters to be troubled, because you have fought for the people he was mad with. If your women and children should now cry, you must blame yourselves for it, and not the Big Knives.

‘You can now judge who is in the right. I have already told you who I am. Here is a bloody belt and a white one, take which you please. Behave like men, and don’t let your being surrounded by the Big Knives cause you to take up the one belt with your hands while your hearts take up the other. If you take the bloody path, you shall leave the town in safety, and may go and join your friends, the English. We will then try, like warriors, who can put the most stumbling-blocks in each other’s way, and keep our clothes longest stained with blood. If, on the other hand, you should take the path of peace, and be received as brothers to the Big Knives, with their friends, the French; should you then listen to bad birds that may be flying through the land, you will no longer deserve to be counted as men, but as creatures with two tongues, that ought to be destroyed without listening to anything you might say. As I am convinced you never heard the truth before, I do not wish you to answer before you have taken time to counsel. We will, therefore, part this evening, and when the Great Spirit shall bring us together again, let us speak and think like men, with but one heart and one tongue.’

“The next day after this speech a new fire was kindled with more than usual ceremony; an Indian speaker came forward and said: They ought to be thankful that the Great Spirit had taken pity on them, and opened their ears and their hearts to receive the truth. He had paid great attention to what the Great Spirit had



put into my heart to say to them. They believed the whole to be the truth, as the Big Knives did not speak like any other people they had ever heard. They now saw they had been deceived, and that the English had told them lies, and that I had told them the truth, just as some of their old men had always told them. They now believed that we were in the right; and as the English had forts in their country, they might, if they got strong enough, want to serve the red people as they had treated the Big Knives. The red people ought, therefore, to help us, and they had, with a cheerful heart, taken up the belt of peace, and spurned that of war. They were determined to hold the former fast, and would have no doubt of our friendship, from the manner of our speaking, so different from that of the English. They would now call in their warriors, and throw the tomahawk into the river, where it could never be found. They would suffer no more bad birds to fly through the land, disquieting the women and children. They would be careful to smooth the roads for their brothers, the Big Knives, whenever they might wish to come and see them. Their friends should hear of the good talk I had given them; and they hoped I would send chiefs among them, with my eyes, to see myself that they were men, and strictly adhered to all they had said at this great fire, which the Great Spirit had kindled at Cahokia for the good of all people who would attend it."

The sacred pipe was again kindled, and presented, figuratively, to the heavens and the earth, and to all the good spirits, as witness of what had been done. The Indians and the white men then closed the council by smoking the pipe and shaking hands. With no material variation, either of the forms that were observed, or with the speeches that were made at this council, Col. Clark and his officers concluded treaties of peace with the Piankeshaws, Oniatenons, Kickapoos, Illinois, Kaskaskias, Peorias, and branches of some other tribes that inhabited the country between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi.

Gov. Henry soon received intelligence of the successful progress of the expedition under the command of Clark. The French inhabitants of the villages of Kaskaskia, Cahokia and Post Vincennes took the oath of allegiance to the State of Virginia.

In October, 1778, the General Assembly of the State of Virginia passed an act which contained the following provisions, viz: All the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia "who are already settled or shall hereafter settle *on the western side of the Ohio*, shall be included in a distinct county, which shall be called *Illinois county*;

and the governor of this commonwealth, with the advice of the council, may appoint a county lieutenant, or commandant-in-chief, in that county, during pleasure, who shall appoint and commission so many deputy commandants, militia officers and commissaries as he shall think proper in the different districts, during pleasure; all of whom, before they enter into office, shall take the oath of fidelity to this commonwealth and the oath of office, according to the form of their own religion. And all civil officers to which the inhabitants have been accustomed, necessary for the preservation of the peace and the administration of justice, shall be chosen by a majority of the citizens in their respective districts, to be convened for that purpose by the county lieutenant, or commandant, or his deputy, and shall be commissioned by the said county lieutenant or commandant-in-chief."

Before the provisions of the law were carried into effect, Henry Hamilton, the British lieutenant-governor of Detroit, collected an army, consisting of about thirty regulars, fifty French volunteers, and four hundred Indians. With this force he passed down the River Wabash, and took possession of Post Vincennes on the 15th of December, 1778. No attempt was made by the population to defend the town. Capt. Helm was taken and detained as a prisoner, and a number of the French inhabitants disarmed.

Clark was aware that Gov. Hamilton, now that he had regained possession of Vincennes, would undertake the capture of his forces, and realizing his danger, he determined to forestall Hamilton and capture the latter. His plans were at once formed. He sent a portion of his available force by boat, called *The Willing*, with instructions to Capt. Rogers, the commander, to proceed down the Mississippi and up the Ohio and Wabash, and secrete himself a few miles below Vincennes, and prohibit any persons from passing either up or down. With another part of his force he marched across the country, through prairies, swamps and marshes, crossing swollen streams—for it was in the month of February, and the whole country was flooded from continuous rains—and arriving at the banks of the Wabash near St. Francisville, he pushed across the river and brought his forces in the rear of Vincennes before daybreak. So secret and rapid were his movements that Gov. Hamilton had no notice that Clark had left Kaskaskia. Clark issued a notice requiring the people of the town to keep within their houses, and declaring that all persons found elsewhere would be treated as enemies. *Tobacco's Son* tendered one hundred of his Piankashaw braves, himself at their head. Clark declined their services with thanks, saying his

own force was sufficient. Gov. Hamilton had just completed the fort, consisting of strong block-houses at each angle, with the cannon placed on the upper floors, at an elevation of eleven feet from the surface. The works were at once closely invested. The ports were so badly cut, the men on the inside could not stand to their cannon for the bullets that would whiz from the rifles of Clark's sharpshooters through the embrasures whenever they were suffered for an instant to remain open.

The town immediately surrendered with joy, and assisted at the siege. After the first offer to surrender upon terms was declined, Hamilton and Clark, with attendants, met in a conference at the Catholic church, situated some eighty rods from the fort, and in the afternoon of the same day, the 24th of February, 1779, the fort and garrison, consisting of seventy-five men, surrendered at discretion.\* The result was that Hamilton and his whole force were made prisoners of war.† Clark held military possession of the northwest until the close of the war, and in that way it was secured to our country. At the treaty of peace, held at Paris at the close of the revolutionary war, the British insisted that the Ohio River should be the northern boundary of the United States. The correspondence relative to that treaty shows that the only ground on which "the American commissioners relied to sustain their claim that the lakes should be the boundary was the fact that *Gen. Clark* had conquered the country, and was in the undisputed *military possession* of it at the time of the negotiation. This fact was affirmed and admitted, and was the chief ground on which British commissioners reluctantly abandoned their claim."‡

\*Two days after the *Willing* arrived, its crew much mortified because they did not share in the victory, although Clark commended them for their diligence. Two days before Capt. Rogers' arrival with the *Willing*, Clark had dispatched three armed boats, under charge of Capt. Helm and Majors Bosseron and Le Grass, up the Wabash, to intercept a fleet which Clark was advised was on its way from Detroit, laden with supplies for Gov. Hamilton at Vincennes. About one hundred and twenty miles up the river the British boats, seven in number, having aboard military supplies of the value of ten thousand pounds sterling money and forty men, among whom was Philip De Jean, a magistrate of Detroit, were captured by Capt. Helm. The writer has before him the statement of John McFall, born near Vincennes in 1798. He lived near and in Vincennes until 1817. His grandfather, Ralph Mattison, was one of Clark's soldiers who accompanied Helm's expedition up the Wabash, and he often told McFall, his grandson, that the British were lying by in the Vermilion River, near its mouth, where they were surprised in the night-time and captured by Helm without firing a shot.

†This march, from its daring conception, and the obstacles encountered and overcome, is one of the most thrilling events in our history, and it is to be regretted that the limited space assigned to other topics precludes its insertion.

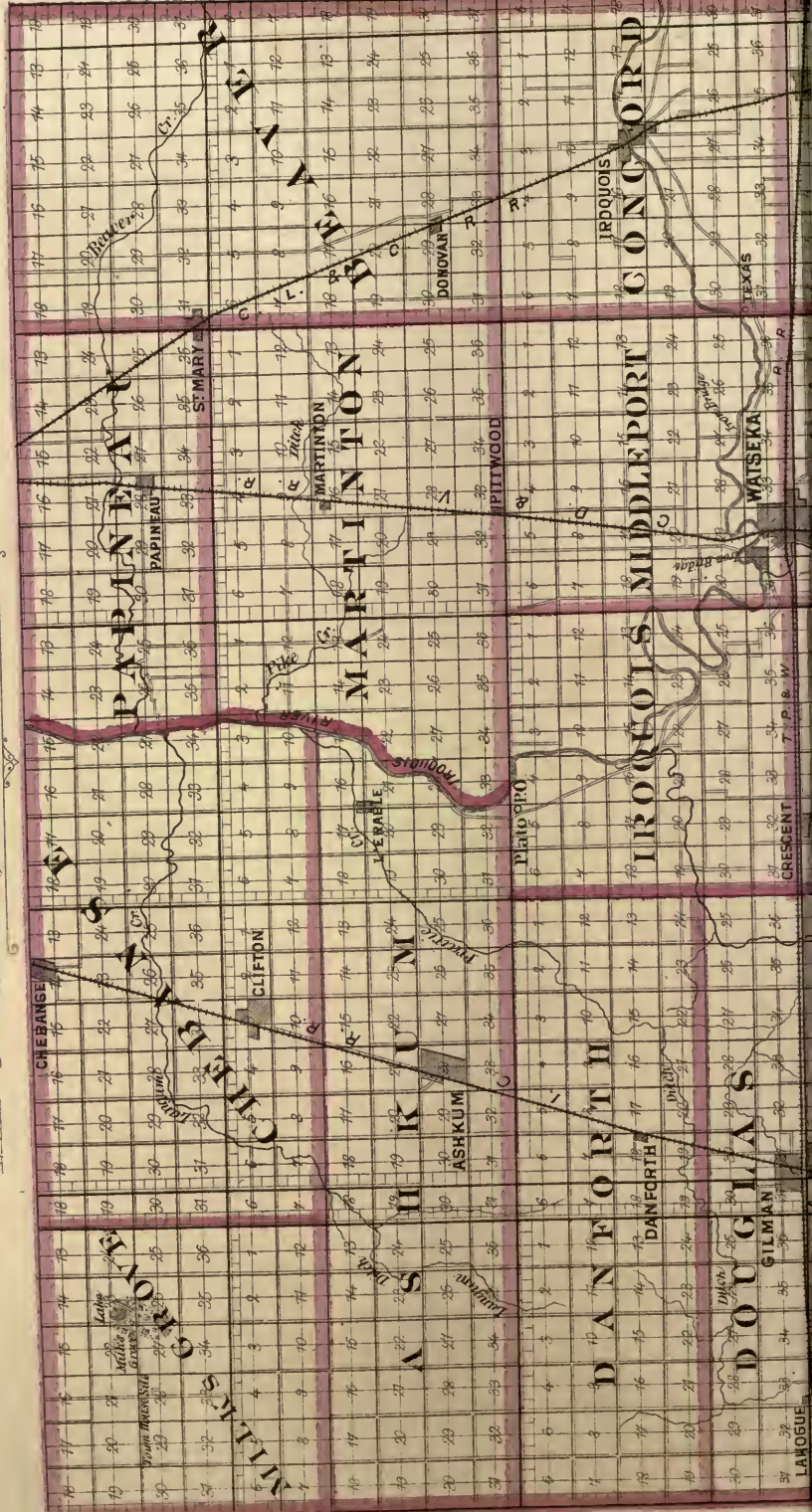
‡Burnett's Notes on the Northwest Territory, p. 77.



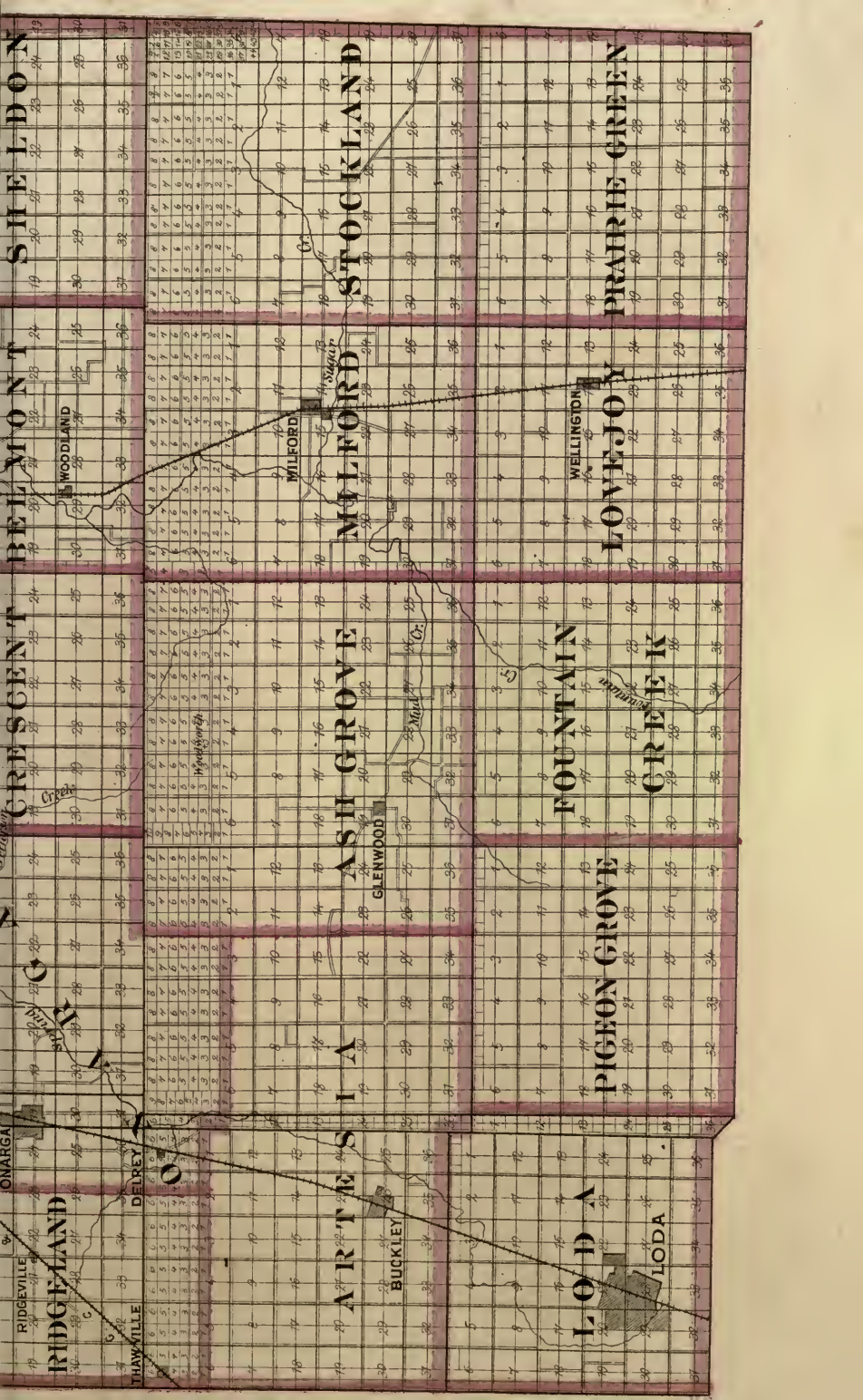


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# MAP OF IROQUOIS COUNTY, ILLINOIS







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# HISTORY OF IROQUOIS COUNTY.

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## IROQUOIS COUNTY IN THE WAR OF THE GREAT REBELLION;

EMBRACING AN HISTORICAL SKETCH OF EACH REGIMENT IN WHICH THERE WERE  
IROQUOIS COUNTY SOLDIERS; ALSO A ROLL OF HONOR, GIVING NAMES OF  
ALL DECEASED SOLDIERS THAT DIED IN LINE OF DUTY, AND A  
BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF COL. WILLIAMS AND  
A NUMBER OF GALLANT OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS WHO WERE KILLED OR DIED  
IN THE SERVICE.

COMPILED AND WRITTEN BY ALEX. L. WHITEHALL, LL.B.,

Captain and Adjutant 9th Reg. I.N.G., and late private of Co. F, 9th Reg. Ind. Vet. Vol. Inf.

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## PREFACE.

The writer of the following regimental sketches, and compiler of the "Roll of Honor of Iroquois County Soldiers in the War of the Rebellion," is frank to admit that his work is not satisfactory to himself, but is merely presented in the hope that it may become a foundation upon which a more perfect and satisfactory work may be reared in the future.

Unfortunately, reliable regimental histories, or even faithful records of the movements and doings of individual regiments are not generally accessible, and such as are obtainable are apt to be brief and unsatisfactory because of their brevity,—being for the most part merely a rehash of some officer's diary. No attempt is made, or very rarely made, at describing the behavior of a regiment in battle, and the chronicler must depend largely upon the published histories of the war, and letters of war correspondents of newspapers published during the late war, and also upon reports of commanding officers, for such details and descriptions of battles and marches as he may wish to employ in writing a tolerably correct and readable regimental history. And as the written statements upon which historians are often forced to rely are not always written by a man who was on the field of battle, or who, if there, was perhaps not in the best position for acquiring an accurate



knowledge, or of witnessing the movements and behavior of the troops of whom he is writing; hence he does not always give a correct account, nor always a just one. But like others who have found themselves similarly circumstanced, we have, in the subsequent pages, sought to make the best use possible of the materials at hand that our ability would admit of; in the hope, as before stated, that our efforts and venture may lead to something better; and if, until then, our work shall be useful in perpetuating the record of Iroquois county's patriotism in the war for the Union, we shall feel our labor has not been in vain.

In the preparation of the subsequent pages we have had to rely very largely upon the reports of the adjutant-general of Illinois, and for necessary data and material have also consulted "Eddy's Patriotism of Illinois," "Van Horne's History of the Army of the Cumberland," and "Gen. Andrew's History of the Mobile Campaign."

We were a soldier from a sister state, and had a personal acquaintance with only four of the regiments whose history we have been requested to write, and do not feel that we could do as full justice to our subject as if we had been an Illinois soldier, and familiar with the history of Illinois regiments.

It is but just to ourself to say that the work has been done during such time as we could snatch from our professional duties, and done only because we felt that the gallant dead and the patriotic surviving soldiers who enlisted from this county during the late war, deserved to have some chronicler present for the perusal of their neighbors and friends a tolerable fair record and recital of their *trials* and *triumphs* while marching and fighting under the dear old flag of our Union. We have written, and present to the public the following pages, believing that even our poor recital of the suffering and heroism of the soldiers of Iroquois county, will arouse in the hearts of our people a kindlier feeling and respect for their neighbors who did manful duty as defenders of our imperiled Union when assailed by treason; and also to arouse a deeper reverence for the noble dead that gave up their lives that the nation might live.

## REGIMENTAL HISTORY.

When the terrible storm-cloud of secession burst upon our union of states, in the spring of 1861, the county of Iroquois contained a population of a little over 16,000, and from that time to the close of the war increased in population but slightly. As a proof of the devotion of her people to the Union, it is only necessary to state that this grand

county sent into the field nearly enough men to make two full regiments. The muster-in rolls of the various organizations in which the county was represented show that over 1,500 men enlisted from and are credited to this county. And of this brave band of men, loyal and true to their country and their country's flag, over 300, or one-fifth, laid down their lives on their country's altar. Such a record is certainly a proud one, and reflects credit upon the bravery and patriotism of the county that so nobly sprang to the defense of our imperiled government. We present, in the succeeding pages, brief historical sketches of the several regiments and batteries in which there were Iroquois county soldiers. The different arms of the service are presented to the reader in the following order: First, Infantry; second, Cavalry; and lastly the Artillery. Beginning with

#### THE TENTH REGIMENT ILLINOIS INFANTRY.

This grand old regiment was organized among the very first, and during the "three-months service" under command of its colonel, afterward general, B. M. Prentiss, was engaged in guarding Cairo. Three of its companies during the three-months term served as artillerymen. The regiment reorganized for the three-years service, with James D. Morgan as its colonel, who, together with Col. Tillson, his successor, was afterward promoted to a generaley. The regiment took a part in the capture of New Madrid, Missouri; Island No. 10, Fort Pillow, Corinth, and passed through the first siege of Nashville; participated in the battle of Mission Ridge. In the winter of 1864, 394 old soldiers reënlisted. During the Atlanta campaign the Tenth was in the First Brigade, Gen. J. D. Morgan commanding, of the Second Division, Gen. Jeff. C. Davis commanding, of the Fourteenth Army Corps, Army of the Cumberland, and behaved gallantly in that historic campaign, which culminated in the downfall of Atlanta. The regiment marched through to the sea with Sherman, and took in the "grand rounds" through the Carolinas, witnessing the surrender of Gen. Joe Johnson's army, and participated in the grand review at Washington city. The regiment was mustered out July 4, 1865. Ex-county surveyor E. W. Dodson was a sergeant in the Tenth, and there were three other Iroquois county boys in this regiment.

#### THE TWELFTH REGIMENT ILLINOIS INFANTRY.

The Twelfth regiment entered the three-years service August 1, 1861, under the command of Col. John McArthur, and upon his promotion Gen. A. L. Chetlain succeeded him as colonel, and was after-

ward promoted. At the battle of Fort Donelson the loss of the regiment was nineteen killed and fifty-eight wounded. The Twelfth participated in the siege of Corinth, and behaved most gallantly in the battle, capturing a rebel battery and a stand of colors, losing Capt. Ward, acting major, and upward of 100 men, killed, wounded and missing. Gen. R. J. Oglesby, the brigade commander, was severely wounded in this action. In 1863 the regiment took an active part in the north Mississippi campaigns, under Gen. Sherman. Twenty-four officers and 311 men reënlisted in January, 1864, and returned home soon after on a veteran furlough. On the return of the regiment to the front it became a part of the "Army of the Tennessee," under the lamented hero Gen. J. B. McPherson, and was actively engaged in the battles and movements in Georgia preceding the fall of Atlanta; loss of the regiment in the campaign up to the fall of Atlanta, 106 killed and wounded. At Allatoona the regiment was hotly engaged, and suffered a loss of fifty-seven out of 161 men engaged.

It was with Sherman in his march to the sea, and marched from Savannah, Georgia, to Columbia, South Carolina, thence to Fayetteville, Goldsboro and Raleigh, North Carolina, and witnessed the surrender of Johnston's army. At the time of Johnston's surrender the Twelfth had tramped 600 miles, and in the northward march to Washington marched 186 miles in six and a half days, "and it wasn't a very good time for marching, either."

The regiment took a part in the grand review at Washington, and returned home for muster out, and was paid off and discharged at Camp Butler, Illinois, July 18, 1865. Iroquois county was represented in the Twelfth regiment by eleven men, distributed as follows: Company C, 7 men; H, 1; K, 2 men; and one unassigned.

#### THE FOURTEENTH REGIMENT ILLINOIS INFANTRY.

This regiment went into the field May 25, 1861, under the command of Col. John M. Palmer, afterward major-general, and still later governor of this state. The Fourteenth took an honorable part in the battles of Fort Donelson and Shiloh, eliciting the praise of its brigade commander for gallant conduct on the fateful field of Shiloh. The regiment formed a part of Gen. Hurlbut's division, and under both Grant and Sherman performed several brilliant achievements in both fighting and marching in the western Tennessee and north Mississippi campaigns.

The regiment reënlisted and took a part in the Atlanta campaign, being consolidated with its old companion regiment, the Fifteenth. In



the attack of Hood upon Sherman's rear, after the fall of Atlanta, this veteran battalion was nearly cut to pieces, and the remnant was mounted, and on the march to Savannah and through the Carolinas did effective service as scouts, being for the most of the time in advance of the army. At Goldsboro, North Carolina, the two regiments, having received a number of recruits, resumed their regimental organization as the Fourteenth and Fifteenth.

Concerning this grand old command we copy the following from the adjutant-general's report: The aggregate number of men who belonged to this organization was 1,980, and the aggregate mustered out at Fort Leavenworth was 480.

During the four years of its arduous service it marched 4,490 miles, traveled by rail 2,330 miles, and by river 4,850 miles, making a total of 11,670 miles traversed. In Company I there were two privates from this county; also in Company K there was a corporal and private, all of whom received an honorable discharge.

#### THE TWENTIETH REGIMENT ILLINOIS INFANTRY.

(WRITTEN BY E. B. SLEETH, ESQ., OF DENVER, COL., FORMERLY SERGEANT OF COMPANY I.)

The Twentieth Infantry was organized at Joliet, Illinois, May 14, 1861, under the command of Col. C. C. Marsh. It was mustered into the United States service, or during the war, June 13, 1861, by Capt. T. G. Pitcher, of the United States army. It left Joliet June 18, by order of Gov. Yates, and proceeded to Alton. July 6 it went to St. Louis arsenal; on the 10th moved to and fortified Cape Girardeau, Missouri; 23d, went on a forced march to Dallas, and captured a large amount of rebel stores; August 12, moved to Bird's Point, Missouri; October 17 it returned to Cape Girardeau; 19th, started for Fredericton, Missouri, which place was reached on the 20th, and had a severe engagement with the enemy under Gen. Jeff Thompson, and was victorious, capturing one piece of artillery, a twenty-pounder howitzer; returned to Bird's Point November 1, and went into winter quarters. January 14, 1862, it accompanied Gen. Grant on a reconnaissance in Kentucky, toward Columbus; 20th, returned to Bird's Point; February 2, moved to Fort Henry, under command of Gen. W. H. L. Wallace; occupied the fort on the 4th. On the 11th it arrived at Fort Donelson, and was engaged in the three-days battle before that place, and was the first regiment that held its position and staid the daring charge made on the right wing of our army by Forrest, in his grand effort on the afternoon of the last day of the battle, for which act the regiment received the personal thanks of Generals Grant and

McClelland. Lieut. Col. Irwin and fifty men were killed in this action.

The regiment next moved with the advance of Gen. Grant's army to Savannah, Tennessee. On the 24th it arrived at Pittsburg Landing; was engaged in the battle of Shiloh, April 6 and 7, and charged upon and captured a rebel battery of two guns; had forty-two men killed, among whom was our adjutant, John E. Thompson. The regiment was in the front on the road, and during the siege of Corinth. It left its position before Corinth June 3, and arrived at Jackson, Tennessee, on the 8th, and was engaged in guarding the railroad during the remainder of that month and July. August 14 it went to Estrapula, on the Hatchie river. September 1, it fought the battle of Britton's Lane, and returned to Jackson on the 4th, and remained till November 8, when it started on the Holly Springs expedition. It arrived at the Springs December 1, and on the 3d crossed the Tallahatchee river and marched to Oxford; recrossed the river on the 24th, on account of the destruction of the stores at Holly Springs by the enemy. The regiment suffered severely on this campaign for want of food, living for ten days on corn foraged from the almost desolate and impoverished country. The regiment then went to Memphis, Tennessee, and there remained until March 1, when it went to Lake Providence, Louisiana.

April 1 it arrived at Milliken's Bend. On a call being made for volunteers to run boats past the Vicksburg batteries, the entire regiment tendered its services, but a delegation only of the regiment was accepted and made the perilous voyage, the remainder marching around Vicksburg, on the Louisiana side of the river, crossing in the transports that had run the blockade to the Mississippi shore, and at once marched to the rear of the rebel fortifications at Grand Gulf, which place was at once abandoned. On May 9 was fought the battle of Thompson Hill; May 12 the battle of Raymond, where Col. Richards and forty men were killed. May 13, was captured Jackson, Mississippi. May 15, the regiment took a prominent part in the great battle of Champion Hills, and May 17 crossed Black river and took position in front of Vicksburg. May 22 it was in the daring charge on that stronghold and was one of the few regiments that reached the rebel works, and retained its position on the site of the rebel works for eighteen hours, sheltering itself by digging under the walls of earth-works, and only vacated its position because other troops could not get to its assistance.

The regiment participated in the whole of the memorable siege, from May 22 to July 4, working in the trenches and mines under Fort Hill, rushing into and holding that stronghold with three other regiments when it was blown up. It was the second regiment to enter

the city of Vicksburg under Gen. Logan, and in consideration of the services rendered in the capture of Fort Hill, which was the key to the Vicksburg defenses, the regiment was appointed provost-guard of the city, which place it occupied until the beginning of the winter, when it was relieved, and joined the Third Division at Black river, Mississippi, where it remained the greater part of the winter, going with Gen. Sherman on his raid to Meridian, Mississippi. It was engaged in numerous skirmishes on this campaign; was cut from communication with the north for thirty days; returned to Vicksburg and from thence to Cairo, Illinois. The veterans of the regiment, of which there were two-thirds, went north on a veteran furlough; while the remainder, or non-veterans, went to Clifton, Tennessee, and marched from there to Huntsville, where the regiment was again reunited. It joined the army of the Tennessee under Gen. Sherman, at Cartersville, Georgia, under command of Gen. Force, First Brigade, Third Division, Seventeenth Army Corps. It took an active part in all the great battles fought and won during the remainder of that campaign.

July 22, 1864, at the battle of Kenesaw Mountain, the regiment was almost annihilated, after which, by order of Gen. Leggett commanding the division, the regiment was mounted, and acted as his body-guard and scouts. When Sherman started on his march to the sea it was in advance of the "Old Third Division," Seventeenth Corps, and was engaged in continuous skirmishes from Atlanta to the Gulf. It went east with Sherman's army; was in the grand review at Washington city; after which it went to Louisville, Kentucky, where it was mustered out of service and sent to Chicago, Illinois, at which place it was paid off and discharged July 19, 1865. This regiment served continuously during the war in the First Brigade, Third (or Logan's) Division, Seventeenth Army Corps,—always at the front, yet never suffering a defeat. Company I of this regiment was organized in the old court-house, in Middleport, Iroquois county, by Capt. George H. Walser, April 19, 1861, and was the pioneer company from this county, and was ready to march in three days after the first call made for troops.

Sergeant Sleeth has given in the above a faithful report of the battles and marches participated in by the Twentieth regiment, and we can only add that in the assault on Kenesaw Mountain the regiment was flanked by the enemy and overpowered after severe loss, and all of the force engaged that day were killed or captured except about sixteen. Afterward this squad was enlarged to thirty-five by men reporting that had been absent from the regiment with leave, and on



detached duty. This band of survivors of the grand old regiment was mounted and placed under the command of Capt. King and employed as scouts by Gen. Leggett, during the "march to the sea," also during the subsequent marches through the Carolinas. When this detachment of the Twentieth reached Goldsboro, North Carolina, it was joined by 250 recruits from Illinois and the rest of the old soldier comrades who had been captured at Kenesaw, and who had been fortunate enough to survive the tortures of Andersonville and other prison pens of the south, rejoined the regiment, some at Goldsboro, and others at Alexandria, Virginia.

After the return of the exchanged prisoners and the accession of the 250 recruits the regiment resumed its regimental organization, and took part as such in the grand review at Washington. Some idea of the service done by the daring fellows of this veteran regiment may be gathered from the statement of the naked fact that of the twenty-two officers and 322 men mustered out in 1865, only about seventy were members of the old organization that a little over four years before took the field with over 900 men in its ranks.

Company I went into the battle of Fort Donelson with sixty-five men, and twenty-six of that number were killed or wounded. Nine of the twenty-six were killed and died of wounds.

Company I was first commanded by Capt. George H. Walser, of Middleport, a member then of the Iroquois bar. Capt. Walser resigned during the fall of 1861, and was succeeded by Capt. Kennard, of Champaign, who was afterward promoted major, and then Capt. Rowland N. Evans, of Bloomington, assumed command of the company, and on his promotion Lient. David Richardson, of Middleport, who had risen from the ranks, became its captain, and filled the position when the company was mustered out. Capt. George E. King, afterward captain of Company F, One Hundred and Thirteenth Regiment, went out as first lieutenant of Company I, of the Twentieth. Sergeant Sleeth, of Company I, was sheriff of this county, and is now city attorney of Denver, Colorado. Capt. H. B. Vennum, of the One Hundred and Fiftieth, served three years in the Twentieth. Lient. Frank High, of Middleport, also an officer of Company I, after the close of the war was appointed general passenger agent of the Chicago & Alton railroad, and still holds the position. Quite a number of our well-to-do farmers were members of this gallant regiment.

## THE TWENTY-FIRST REGIMENT ILLINOIS INFANTRY.

Most readers are familiar with the fact that this regiment went into the field with Gen. U. S. Grant at its head as colonel, and his subsequent promotion and grand achievements as the leader of the armies of the west, at Donelson, Shiloh, Vicksburg and Mission Ridge, and his triumphs as commander-in-chief of all the Union armies are fresh in the minds of all loyal people. The regiment, as well as its first commander, has a proud record for coolness and courage on many a hard fought field. But as Iroquois county furnished but one man (Joseph Shepard, of Milford), to this regiment, we do not deem it best in this connection to give a detailed history of the Twenty-first, but will merely call attention to the principal campaigns and battles in which "Grant's old regiment" took an active and honorable part. It was engaged in the Missouri campaigns in the fall of 1861, and winter and spring of 1862, and participated in the battle of Frederickton. It formed a part of Gen. Steele's Arkansas expedition. The regiment took a part in the siege of Corinth, and was engaged in the battles of Perryville and Stone River, behaving with great gallantry in a charge upon the celebrated Washington Light Artillery of rebel fame, in the latter battle. In the disastrous battle of Chickamauga the Twenty-first lost 238 officers and men, in killed, wounded and missing. As a part of the Fourth Army Corps the regiment participated in the Atlanta campaign, and in all the engagements behaved with its accustomed gallantry. The regiment was with the army of Gen. George H. Thomas, at Pulaski, Columbia, Franklin and Nashville, Tennessee, and rendered a good account of itself in this important campaign. During the summer of 1865, in conjunction with other forces in Thomas' command, the Twenty-first regiment went to Texas, and remained there on duty until mustered out at San Antonio, December 16, 1865.

## THE TWENTY-FIFTH REGIMENT ILLINOIS INFANTRY.

WRITTEN BY A. H. SOUTH, FORMERLY LIEUTENANT OF COMPANY F.

This regiment was composed of companies raised in the counties of Coles, Edgar, Champaign, Douglas, Vermilion and Iroquois, William N. Coler, of Urbana, Illinois, colonel commanding. The regiment was mustered into the United States service August 4, 1861 (the muster-in rolls, however, make it August 6, 1861, which is a mistake), at the United States Arsenal at St. Louis, Missouri. September 23, 1861, the regiment went to Jefferson City via the Pacific railroad. September 27, 1861, it went to Otterville, Missonri, via Pacific railroad, and

went into camp at Lamine river bridge. October 13, 1861, it went to Sedalia, Missouri, terminus of the Pacific railroad.

October 15, 1861, the regiment went to Springfield, Missouri, from there to Wilson's creek, and returned to Springfield, and from there to Rolla, Missouri, arriving at the latter place November 19, 1861. It remained in camp until February 2, 1862, and then started for Springfield, Missouri, arriving there February 13, 1862. It left Springfield February 14, 1862. March 6, 7 and 8 it engaged in the battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas. After marching and countermarching, the regiment, with nine other regiments under the command of Brigadier-General Jeff C. Davis, started for Cape Girardeau, Missouri, May 9, 1862, and arrived there May 20, 1862. May 22 it went to Hamburg Landing via steamboat Henry Clay, arriving there May 26. After marching and skirmishing for a long time near Jacinto and other places near there it left Iuka, Mississippi, August 18, 1862, for Louisville, Kentucky, via Nashville, arriving there September 26, 1862. October 1, 1862, it left Louisville, Kentucky, and was near, but not engaged in, the battle of Perryville, Kentucky, October 8, 1862.

After marching around the country for several days the regiment started for Nashville, Tennessee, arriving there November 7, 1862, and remained there, doing guard duty and foraging, until December 26, 1862, when the regiment started for Murfreesboro, Tennessee. It was actively engaged in the battles of Stone River, from December 30, 1862, to January 4, 1863,—December 31 being the day it was most actively engaged. The regiment remained in camp from January 6, 1863, to June 24, 1863, and then started with the army, under Gen. Rosecrans, after the rebel army under Gen. Bragg. It remained awhile at and near Winchester, Tennessee, and was actively engaged at the battle of Chickamauga, Georgia, September 19 and 20, 1863. September 22 it went to Chattanooga, Tennessee, and remained there until November 23, when the regiment was very actively engaged in the battles of Mission Ridge, fought November 23, 24 and 25, 1863. November 28, 1863, it left Chattanooga, Tennessee, for Knoxville, Tennessee, arriving there on or about December 3. The regiment spent the winter in East Tennessee, marching, countermarching, skirmishing and foraging all the time, and finally got back to Cleveland, Tennessee, and remained from April 16, 1864, to May 31, 1864, when the regiment was ordered to join the army under Gen. Sherman, en route for Atlanta, Georgia. The regiment joined the brigade June 7, 1864. The regiment remained with the army, pressing on toward Atlanta, under fire nearly every day, until August 1, 1864, when the order came for the regiment to start for Springfield, Illi-



nois, to be mustered out. It arrived at Springfield August 11, 1864. September 5, 1864, the regiment was mustered out, having served three years and one month, and having marched on foot 3,252 miles, and traveled by steamboat and rail 1,710 miles. Total number of miles traveled in three years was 4,962. It participated in the following battles and numerous heavy skirmishes: Pea Ridge, Arkansas; siege of Corinth, Stone River, Tennessee; Chickamauga, Georgia; Mission Ridge, Tennessee; Kenesaw Mountain, Georgia; Peach Tree Creek, Georgia, and Atlanta.

Lieut. South, in the compilation of the sketch of his regiment, has exhibited rather more than a soldierly modesty in his brief mention of the more important battles in which the Twenty-fifth took an active and honorable part. At Pea Ridge the regiment experienced its first battle, and under the most trying ordeal it behaved with the courage and steadiness of veteran troops. In the terrible struggle among the cedars of Stone River, Woodruff's brigade, to which the Twenty-fifth belonged, did heroic fighting, and was warmly commended by Gen. Jeff. C. Davis, the division commander, who, speaking in his report of the gallant stand made by the brigade, December 31, 1862, says of Carlin's and Woodruff's brigades: "The enemy commenced a heavy and very determined attack upon Carlin's and Woodruff's brigades. These brigades were fully prepared for the attack, and received it with veteran courage. The conflict was fierce in the extreme on both sides. Our loss was heavy, and that of the enemy was no less. It was, according to my observation, the best contested point of the day, and would have been held but for the overwhelming force moving so persistently against my right. Carlin, finding his right flank so severely pressed and threatened with being turned, ordered his troops to retire. Woodruff's brigade succeeded in repulsing the enemy and holding the position, until the withdrawal of the troops on both of its flanks compelled it to retire." By the above account of the fight by the general of division, it will be seen that the daring brigade held its ground stubbornly until completely flanked on the left and right, when it fell back to a position in line with the rest of the division. Col. Woodruff, in his report of the conduct of his brigade, pays a very high compliment to the personal gallantry of Col. T. D. Williams, who fell during the thickest of the fight, with the regimental colors of the Twenty-fifth in his hands. The loss of the regiment was very great, and it well deserved to inscribe upon its banner "Stone River."

At Chickamauga the division of Davis, including the Twenty-fifth regiment, did hard fighting, but were forced to yield to overpowering rebel masses hurled against them, and obliged to fall back toward

Missionary Ridge. Much of the hardest fighting was done in a dense wood, and the regiment being at close quarters, and assailed by a greatly superior force in point of numbers, lost heavily. The Twenty-fifth a little later behaved with great gallantry in the assault upon Missionary Ridge. During the Atlanta campaign the Twenty-fifth never failed to show the spirit of true soldiers whenever brought face to face with the enemy, and during that long and bloody campaign the sturdy soldiers of the old Twenty-fifth made for themselves a record that entitles them to the praise and profound respect of every patriot in the loyal state that sent them forth to do valiant battle for the old flag.

Company F, Capt. Ray W. Andrews, of Onarga, commanding, was almost entirely composed of men from this county, there being some eight or ten men in the original company from Ford and Kankakee counties; and among the recruits afterward sent the companies, there were about a half a dozen men that belonged in other counties. First Lieut. James P. Martin, of this company, filled the office of sheriff of this county from 1864 to 1866. He was also the founder of Old Martinton, in this county. Lieut. Martin died about eight years ago from the effects of disease contracted while in the service. Second Lieut. Alex. H. South, of this company, filled the office of sheriff for three terms successively, and was an excellent officer.

Company G, Capt. (afterward colonel) Thomas D. Williams, of Chebanse, commanding, was made up of men from Champaign, Iroquois and Kankakee counties,—Iroquois county furnishing the captain (Williams), one lieutenant, and about one-third of the rank and file of the company. Jerome Bard, a prominent merchant and estimable citizen of Chebanse, was a sergeant in Company G, and a faithful soldier. Our present efficient county clerk, Henry A. Butzow, Esq., was a private in Company G of the Twenty-fifth. Several of the old soldier boys of this splendid old regiment are now well-to-do and influential citizens of this county, and lack of space forbids individual mention of these men, who performed well their part as brave soldiers, and are now distinguished as peaceable, upright and worthy citizens.

#### THE THIRTY-NINTH REGIMENT ILLINOIS INFANTRY.

This organization—familiarily known as “Yates Phalanx”—left the state with a “prize banner,” won in a drill contest under the auspices of the State Agricultural Society, and being composed of fine material, well officered, it bid fair to win the glorious name that it did. In October, 1861, the regiment reported to Gen. Curtis for duty, in Missouri,

but received orders about the first of November to proceed to Maryland, and it did so, arriving December 11, 1861. During the winter of 1862 the regiment did a great deal of hard marching and fighting, the engagements being generally with rebel cavalry seeking to get into the rear of the Union lines, and the Thirty-ninth which was guarding exposed posts.

The regiment was in the battle of Winchester, and contributed not a little toward securing the defeat of Stonewall Jackson. The greater part of the summer of 1862 was spent by the Thirty-ninth in wearisome marches and sharp skirmishes, and the fall of the same year was mainly spent in the fortifications at Suffolk, Virginia, and in forays into the enemy's country. The regiment, in January, 1863, accompanied Gen. Foster's expedition to Hilton Head, South Carolina, and in the ensuing spring and summer it assisted in the laborious siege operations that culminated in the capture of Morris Island, in Charleston Harbor, and the capture of Fort Wagner. Just before the regiment started to South Carolina, a flag bearing the portrait of Gov. Yates was presented to the regiment, and was carried to the close of the war along with the regimental colors.

The regiment reënlisted, and when recruited reported to Gen. B. F. Butler, in May, 1864, and took an active part in the expedition up James river. The Thirty-ninth did some terrible fighting during May and June, 1864, losing 315 men during these two months. In a charge upon the rebel works at Deep Run, Virginia, August 16, the Thirty-ninth lost 104 men and several officers. In a charge upon the enemy's works, on the Darlington road, seven miles from Richmond, October 13, 1864, the regiment went into the fight 250 strong and lost sixty men. During the winter of 1864 and 1865 the regiment was in front of Richmond and Petersburg, and having received about 100 recruits, these were drilled and disciplined for the approaching decisive campaign. The regiment took a part in the assault upon the rebel works, April 2, 1865, and were the first troops to plant the national colors on the works, though not without terrible loss. Seven of the color-guard of nine were shot, and out of the 150 men that went into the fight, sixteen were shot dead and forty-five so severely wounded that many afterward died of their wounds. As a testimonial to the regiment for its bravery Gen. Gibbon himself placed a brazen eagle upon the color-staff at the grand review at Washington, and color-sergeant Day received a medal of honor from the war department for his bravery in planting his colors upon Fort Gregg after he had been severely wounded. The regiment continued in the service



after the fall of Richmond, until December 16, 1865, when it was mustered out.

Iroquois county was represented in the "Yates Phalanx" by one non-commissioned officer and five privates. One of the latter laid down his life in battle.

#### THE FORTY-SECOND REGIMENT ILLINOIS INFANTRY.

Col. William A. Webb organized the Forty-second regiment July 22, 1861, at Chicago, Illinois, where it remained in camp until it joined Gen. Fremont's army at St. Louis, Missouri, September 21, 1861, and was by him sent to Gen. Hunter at Tipton, Missouri, arriving October 18, 1861. The regiment here became a part of Gen. John M. Palmer's brigade. The first week in November the Forty-second marched to Springfield, Missouri, thence to Smithton, in the same state, where it went into winter quarters early in December. The regiment was ordered to Fort Holt, Kentucky, and reached its destination February 20, 1862, and proceeded from there to Columbus and Island No. 10, taking an active part in the siege and capture of the island. Previous to the capture of Island No. 10 the Forty-second performed a couple of brilliant exploits that are worthy of perpetuation in its history. The first was a bold dash made into Union City by the Forty-second regiment, supported by 400 men of the Fifteenth Wisconsin regiment, two companies of the Second Illinois Cavalry, and a battery, all under the command of Col. Buford, seconded by Col. Roberts of the Forty-second. A large force of secessionists, under the command of the notorious Clay King, were completely surprised, and utterly routed by the union force. The union loss in this dash was one man killed, and the rebel loss twenty killed and 100 captured. A lot of 200 horses, and other very valuable captures fell into the hands of the charging column. Col. Roberts, at the head of about forty picked men from the Forty-second, one dark night in the midst of a terrific storm, put off from the gun-boat Benton in a boat with muffled oars, and landed in the face of a scorching picket fire, and scaled the enemy's parapets in less than three minutes after landing; and before the dismayed rebels could get aroused to what was going on, the daring band had effectually spiked six of their cannon, the Lady Davis among the number, which daring act enabled our gun-boats to run past the battery, and complete the evacuation of the Island. The regiment was engaged in the siege of Corinth, and the battle of Farmington, losing at the latter place seventeen men.

At Columbia, Tennessee, September 9, 1862, the Forty-second lost

one man killed, and the enemy eighteen killed and forty-five wounded. The regiment was cooped up in Nashville during the siege late in the fall of 1862. December 10 it moved out of the city on the Nolansville pike, and entered upon the Murfreesboro campaign. At Stone River, the regiment was on an exposed part of the field, and did hard fighting, losing twenty-two killed, 116 wounded and eighty-five prisoners. At Chickamauga the regiment did gallant service, and displayed great coolness under the most disheartening surroundings. Its loss on the two days, September 19 and 20, was twenty-eight killed, 128 wounded and twenty-eight taken prisoners by the rebels. In the assault upon Mission Ridge the Forty-second acted as skirmishers, and sustained a loss of five killed and forty wounded.

The regiment reenlisted January 1, 1864, and six weeks later was furloughed, and did not return to the front until the April following, when it returned to Chattanooga, and entered upon the Atlanta campaign, participating during the summer of 1864, in the following engagements, viz: Rocky Face Ridge, Resaca, Adairsville, New Hope Church, Pine Mountain, Kenesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, Atlanta, Jonesboro and Lovejoy Station, going into camp at Atlanta, September 8, 1864, with a loss during the campaign of 116 men.

The Forty-second, during the Atlanta campaign, forming a part of the lamented Gen. Harker's (Third) brigade of the second division, Fourth Army Corps, with the other troops of the Fourth corps, the Forty-second took up position at Pulaski, Tennessee, to check the northward march of Gen. Hood's army. The regiment took a prominent part in the battles of Spring Hill, Franklin and Nashville, behaving with its accustomed coolness and courage, suffering a severe loss at Franklin, losing twenty-four men killed, and over one hundred wounded and captured. In the battles at Nashville the regimental loss in killed and wounded was thirteen men. The regiment participated in the chase after Hood's defeated army as far as Lexington, Alabama. Afterward, during the winter or spring of 1865, the Forty-second formed a part of the expedition to Bull's Gap, Tennessee. And June 15, 1865, the regiment broke camp near Nashville and moved to Johnsonville, thence to New Orleans, and from there to Port Lavaca, Texas, at which place it was mustered out December 16, 1865, and returned to Camp Butler, Illinois, arriving January 3, 1866, receiving pay and final discharge January 10, 1866.

Iroquois county furnished twenty-eight men to the Forty-second, distributed as follows: Company C, two men; D, one man; F, one man; G, twelve men; and H, twelve men, of whom six died in line of duty.

## THE FORTY-THIRD REGIMENT ILLINOIS INFANTRY.

Iroquois county furnished seventeen enlisted men to the Forty-third regiment as members of Company K, a one-year organization mustered in during the early spring of 1865.

The Forty-third regiment in the outset was very largely composed of Germans, and under the command of Col. Julius Raith, it distinguished itself by the devotion it showed to the "flag of the free" upon many a bloody field and in many weary, harassing marches through the wilds of Arkansas and Tennessee, often meeting and vanquishing the guerrilla bands that so sorely ravaged portions of the state of Arkansas and the western portion of Tennessee. At Shiloh the chivalric Col. Raith and a number of his officers and men laid down their lives that the Union might live, and to secure peace and strength to their adopted government. Near Jackson, Tennessee, the Forty-third and Sixty-first Illinois regiments, aggregating a force of four hundred and twenty-five men, defeated the notorious rebel raider, Gen. Forrest, at the head of eighteen hundred rebels. The regiment formed a part of Gen. Steele's Arkansas expedition, and subsequently of his expedition toward Red river, Texas, and suffered heavily from the toilsome marches and attacks of the enemy upon the column. At Prairie D'Anne, Arkansas, April 10, 1864, the Forty-third regiment behaved with great bravery, and was the first to occupy the evacuated works of the confederates. The Forty-third did some hard fighting at Jenkin's Ferry, Arkansas, losing quite heavily itself, and at the same time inflicting serious loss upon the rebel command under Gen. Kirby Smith.

The regiment toward the latter end of the rebellion was stationed at Little Rock, the capital of Arkansas, where it remained, doing guard duty, from May 3, 1864, up to December 14, 1865, when it was mustered out of the service at Little Rock, and returned home soon after.

## THE FIFTY-FIRST REGIMENT ILLINOIS INFANTRY.

Nine companies of the Fifty-first regiment of Infantry were organized at Camp Douglas December 24, 1861, and led to the field by Colonel Gilbert W. Cummings. During February and the early part of March, 1862, the Fifty-first was engaged in campaigning in Missouri. It formed a part of the force that captured New Madrid, Missouri, and after resting a few days at New Madrid the regiment started on the expedition for the capture of Island No. 10, and was quite effective in securing the capture of the 4,000 troops under Gen. Mackall, that sought to save



themselves by flight after the surrender of the fortifications on Island No. 10.

From Island No. 10 the regiment moved down the river to Osceola, Arkansas, and thence to Hamburg Landing, arriving April 22, 1862. During the later part of April the regiment was made a part of Gen. John M. Palmer's brigade, of Gen. Paine's division, and participated in the battle of Farmington, winning good opinions from its commanders by its veteran-like behavior while under fire. During the operations against and the advance upon Corinth, Paine's division, to which the Fifty-first belonged, with that of Gen. Stanley, constituted the "right wing," as designated by Gen. Halleck.

In the early part of the month of June, 1862, while the regiment was in the field near Baldwin, Col. F. A. Harrington assumed command of the brigade to which the Fifty-first belonged, and continued in command until killed at its head during the bloody battle of Stone River. About the middle of June the regiment returned to Corinth and remained there until July 20, when it marched to Tusculum, Alabama, and during the greater part of August the Fifty-first was engaged in guarding the railroad from Hillsboro to Decatur, until the first week in September, when it crossed the Tennessee river and moved to Athens, and thence to Nashville, forming a part of the garrison during the siege of the city by Breckenridge, Morgan and Forrest, being cut off from Buell in Kentucky from September 11 to November 6, 1862, during which time the garrison suffered from a scarcity of rations and supplies. Meantime Col. Cummings resigned while the regiment lay at Nashville, and Lieut.-Colonel L. P. Bradley, an excellent officer and gallant soldier, succeeded him in command of the regiment. In December, before the movement against Bragg at Murfreesboro, the Fifty-first was transferred to Gen. Phil. Sheridan's division, forming a part of the Third Brigade, Third Division of the Fourteenth Army Corps. The regiment went into the battle of Stone River under Col. Bradley, but Col. Harrington, acting-brigadier, being mortally wounded and captured, Col. Bradley, December 31, took command of the brigade, and Capt. Westcott took command of the regiment. The Fifty-first was in the thickest of the fight, and sustained a loss of nearly sixty killed, wounded and missing. In the following March the regiment went on a "wild goose chase" after Van Dorn, pursuing him as far as Duck river. In the forward movement to Tullahoma, Tennessee, and Bridgeport, Alabama, after Bragg, the division to which the Fifty-first belonged formed a part of the Twentieth Corps under Gen. McCook and did its full share of the hard marches through Alabama and Georgia and into the Lookout valley near Chattanooga,

Tennessee, and also took a hand in the disastrous battle of Chickamauga, losing nearly 45 per cent of the men engaged.

After the battle of Chickamauga the Twentieth and Twenty-first Corps were consolidated, and designated as the Fourth Corps,— Gen. Sheridan commanding the Second Division, and Col. G. C. Harker the Third Brigade of the Division; the Fifty-first forming a part of the Third Brigade. In the assault upon Mission Ridge. Maj. Davis was severely wounded, Capt. Bellows was killed, and the regiment lost thirty men out of the 150 that went into the charge. Capt. Tilton took Maj. Davis' place after the latter was wounded, as regimental commander. The last of November, 1863, the regiment, brigade, division and corps, moved toward Knoxville to release Gen. Burnside. It encamped at Blain's Cross Roads, and remained till January 15, when the regiment returned to Chattanooga and there reënlisted, and started home two days later on a veteran furlough. The regiment returned to Cleveland, Tennessee, the last of March, 1864, and soon after entered upon the great Atlanta campaign, and during the many engagements the regiment was in it behaved courageously, losing during the campaign three officers killed, four wounded, and 105 men killed and wounded. The regiment sustained its severest loss at Kennesaw, where its gallant adjutant and one lieutenant were killed, and fifty-four men killed and wounded. Capt. Tilton, of Company C,—the Iroquois county company,—was severely wounded at Dallas, Georgia. The regiment marched into Atlanta September 8, 1864, and a proud day it was to the conquerors of that stronghold.

The last of September the regiment moved to Bridgeport, and after a couple of weeks encamped at Chattanooga, where the venerable chaplain, Rev. L. Raymond, well known as a popular evangelist in the Baptist church, resigned and went home. At this point 192 recruits (drafted men) joined the regiment, many of whom did good service at Franklin and Nashville a few weeks later. The regiment moved with its corps to Pulaski, Tennessee, to checkmate Hood in his bold advance upon Nashville. The Third Brigade, under Bradley, held the strong columns of Hood in check, November 29, at Spring Hill, enabling the First and Third Divisions of the Fourth, and the whole of the Twenty-third Corps, and their trains, to pass on to Franklin, where, in conjunction with the Second Brigade of its Division, it also repaired, halting on Carter's Hill 300 yards in advance of the union works, on the right and left of the Columbia pike. Here the two brigades disposed on each side of the pike, hastily threw up barricades, and in obedience to the somewhat reckless orders of Gen. Wagner, it made ready to fight the whole of Hood's army. When Hood, with his two army corps

massed in column on the pike, and on either side of it, with the Third Corps behind the others, *in reserve*, the two gallant skeleton brigades, true to Wagner's order, held their position in the face of an army of nearly 50,000 men, advancing in grand array upon the army of Schofield, and poured a deadly fire into the massed ranks of the enemy, but were, as a matter of course, forced to fall back to the main line, which they did in some disorder,—but for the most part the Fifty-first fell back in good order, though at a rapid pace, and once behind the works they faced about and poured a deadly fire into the enemy's ranks; but in falling back, Wagner's men had, in some places, been so closely pursued, that in letting them through that part of the union lines held by the brigades of the Twenty-third Corps, posted on the right and left of the Columbia pike, the rebels also forced their way through the lines and captured a battery, turned it upon the union line crouching behind their works, and then began a terrible hand-to-hand fight, in which the Fifty-first—or so much of it as had not been killed or captured before reaching the works—took a hand. Here Captain Tilton and Lieut. Iven Bailey (late county treasurer), then a sergeant, fell terribly wounded;—the latter, like many of his brave comrades, though shot down kept on firing at the enemy until their guns were wrenched from their hands in the desperate conflict. At last the gallant First Brigade, of the Second Division, having come to their relief, the enemy was driven back beyond the works, after terrible fighting, and kept there until after midnight, when the whole union army fell back across the Harpeth river, and retired to Nashville. At Franklin, beside the loss of four of its officers, the Fifty-first lost fifty-two men killed and wounded, and ninety-eight missing,—most of the latter were taken prisoners before they could get behind the works, after they had been driven from the outpost on Carter's Hill.

The Fifty-first regiment was engaged in the two-days battle at Nashville, and followed Hood's defeated army to the Tennessee river, and afterward went into winter quarters at Huntsville, Alabama. In the spring it moved first to Greenville, East Tennessee, and from there to Nashville, where Company I, ninety strong, joined the regiment from Camp Butler, Illinois. Lieut. James Skidmore and his company (F) was mustered out, and returned home June 15, 1865. Lieut. Skidmore himself was from this county. The regiment during the month of July went to Texas, and was mustered out there September 25, 1865.

Company C of the Fifty-first was, with the exception of some twenty men from Knoxville and Knox county and a few other points, recruited by Lieut. Albert Eads, from Iroquois county. Capt. N. B. Petts, assisted by A. M. Tilton and Adam S. Hetfield, afterward first



lieutenant and first sergeant of the company respectively, did most of the recruiting for the company during the early fall of 1861. Lieut. Tilton, on the resignation of Capt. Petts, was made captain of the company, and he was succeeded at the expiration of his term of service by Lieut. Francis M. Bryant, formerly of Middleport. Sergt. A. S. Hetfield was promoted lieutenant, then quartermaster, and afterward captain of company E. Corp. Benjamin F. James, before the close of the war, was promoted to the first lieutenancy of company B. A number of the members of the Fifty-first are well-to-do farmers and prominent citizens of this county. Among them we name A. M. Eastburn, of Sheldon, and J. J. Edwards, of Crescent, as being both veterans and sergeants of Company C, and many other of our solid citizens did noble duty as soldiers of the old Fifty-first regiment.

#### THE FIFTY-SEVENTH REGIMENT ILLINOIS INFANTRY.

The Fifty-seventh, Col. Silas D. Baldwin commanding, was mustered into the United States service at Camp Douglas, December 26, 1861, and the second week in February following it moved to Cairo; thence to Forts Henry and Donelson, being assigned to Gen. Lew Wallace's division at Donelson, and taking part in the battle. At Shiloh, in the two-days battle, the regiment lost over 180 men and officers. Afterward the regiment formed a part of the army besieging Corinth, and after its capture formed a part of the garrison, and stubbornly held the place when Van Dorn assaulted it, losing forty-two men. During the summer of 1863 the regiment was engaged in chasing the bold raider, Forrest, from one place to another, and finally settled back in its old quarters as the garrison of Corinth, and remained there till November 4, when it moved to Louisville, where it reënlisted, and the veterans returned home on a thirty-day furlough, the regiment meantime being strengthened by 250 new recruits while at Chicago on furlough, and with this new levy the regiment returned to the front in March, 1864.

The regiment did duty at Athens, Alabama, until May 1, 1864, when it joined Sherman's grand army en route for Atlanta, and formed a part of the army of the Tennessee, under command of the lamented Gen. McPherson, and did good service in that historic campaign; and also after the fall of Atlanta, the regiment did good service scouting through North Georgia. After a severe brush with the rear of Hood's army, then marching northward on October 13, in which the Fifty-seventh lost seven men and threw a large force of the enemy into confusion, the regiment, with the rest of the brigade, took up the line of

march from Rome to Atlanta, and thence to the sea, forming a part of the Fifteenth Army Corps; and the fortunes of the Fifty-seventh after leaving Atlanta, Georgia, on the famous tramp to Savannah, are identical with those of the Fifteenth Corps, to which, as above stated, it belonged. It made the tour of the Carolinas, and was present at the surrender of Joe Johnston's army, and continued its tramping after the surrender, until it finally brought up with the rest of Sherman's army in the grand review at the national capital. The Fifty-seventh was mustered out July 10, 1865, at Chicago. There were thirteen men from Onarga, in this county, in the Fifty-seventh, four of which number lost their lives.

#### THE FIFTY-EIGHTH REGIMENT ILLINOIS INFANTRY.

Col. William F. Lynch, a dashing young Irishman, of Elgin, Illinois, organized the Fifty-eighth at Camp Douglas December 25, 1861, and led it to the field the second week of February, 1862, taking a part in the siege and capture of Fort Donelson, and later, a part in the dark drama enacted on Shiloh's field, where the greater portion of the Fifty-eighth was surrounded and captured after a prolonged and desperate resistance, in which the regiment was severely handled by an overpowering foe. Four hundred and fifty were either killed, wounded or captured, and as 218 was the number taken prisoners, it will be seen that the loss in killed was very great. Those taken prisoners were sent to the rebel prison pens at different points in the South, and as a large number of the prisoners were suffering from wounds, and were treated with the inhumanity and *devilish* brutality which distinguished the boasted "chivalry" (?) of the Confederacy, after seven months' suffering in the horrid dens devised by rebel monsters, 130 men of the 218 were exchanged, the rest having died under their tortures. The remnant of the regiment, after the battle of Shiloh, together with remnants of other regiments that had suffered in the same manner a loss of the major part of their men, were consolidated into an organization known as the "Union Brigade," and rendered efficient service at the siege of Corinth, also in its defense still later in the year, and also at Iuka, Mississippi.

In the early winter of 1862-3 the regiment was reunited at Camp Butler, the prisoners now exchanged and able for duty reported, and the regiment was held at Springfield guarding rebel prisoners until June 28, 1863, meantime it had received a number of recruits and was once more a strong, disciplined and effective force. The regiment spent the rest of the summer of 1863 and the fall of that year in doing

garrison duty at Cairo, Mound City, Union City, Paducah and Columbus, Kentucky, up to January 1, 1864, when it veteranized. January 21, 1864, the Fifty-eighth embarked for Vicksburg, Mississippi; arrived there February 3, and moved across the Big Black, fighting the enemy at Queen's Hill; participated in the Meridian raid and suffered severely on the raid, by reason of the scarcity of rations, subsisting seventy hours on one day's rations and marching forty-seven miles in the meantime. The Fifty-eighth was the first infantry to enter Meridian. On its return to Vicksburg the regiment accompanied Gen. A. J. Smith in his Red River expedition, and took a part in the siege and capture of Fort De Russey, the Fifty-eighth's colors being the first planted on the captured works.

In the disaster at Pleasant Hill, Louisiana, the Fifty-eighth bore a conspicuous part and a heroic one, in checking the flushed rebel army that was pressing triumphantly back upon Grand Ecore in disorderly retreat, the demoralized army of Gen. Banks. Hoping to check the exultant foe and save the panic-stricken army of Banks, Gen. A. J. Smith threw out his lines in good order, but a brigade of eastern troops on the right of the Fifty-eighth (the latter holding the extreme left), filled with forebodings of defeat from the tales of excited and demoralized stragglers from Banks' column, fell back early in the engagement, leaving the Fifty-eighth alone and cut off, but the dauntless regiment fearlessly charged the pursuing enemy on the flank and rear, and poured in such a deadly enfilading fire as to completely stagger and throw into confusion and retreat the column of rebels that, in the flush of victory, were fast on the heels of the flying brigade of eastern troops. And here the daring Fifty-eighth got in its best work, taking upward of 500 prisoners, many of whom turned out to be the same men they had, the winter before, guarded as prisoners at Camp Butler, in Illinois. The rebels thus confronted and driven back by this gallant regiment, began a retreat. And yet the union forces also continued to retreat, and the boys of the Fifty-eighth, with a re-captured battery and their prisoners, fell back *sullenly* with and in the rear of the main column to Grand Ecore. The regiment afterward participated in the following engagements with credit: Marksville Prairie, Clouterville and Yellow Bayou, losing heavily at the last-mentioned fight. Nine color-bearers were shot down in rapid succession, and their young and dashing commander, Col. Lynch, here received a severe wound.

The regiment spent the rest of the summer of 1864 in steeple-chases after guerrilla bands in north Mississippi, west Tennessee, Arkansas and Missouri, and in the fall marched through Missouri



to Kansas, being poorly fed on the route. December 1, 1864, the regiment reached Nashville, Tennessee, and took a part in the two-days battle and the pursuit of Hood, following him to Eastport, Mississippi, where the non-veterans were mustered out, leaving 390 men, that were consolidated into four companies as the Fifty-eighth battalion, and sent to Gen. Canby, at Mobile, Alabama; and while there the battalion of four companies was joined by six new companies of recruits, and was foremost in the charge upon Fort Blakeley. From Mobile the Fifty-eighth went to Montgomery, Alabama, where it was further recruited by the assignment of recruits from the Eighty-first and One Hundred and Fourteenth Illinois. And it remained at this point, doing garrison duty until April 1, 1866, when it was mustered out. In the old three-years organization Iroquois county furnished nineteen men to Company C, and Hon. George C. Wilson was at first corporal, and afterward second lieutenant of this company.

Company H, one of the new one-year companies, was almost entirely from this county, and was commanded by Capt. James H. Jaquith, of Chebanse. This company was mustered in, in the spring of 1865, and saw nearly all its service at Montgomery, Alabama, doing guard duty.

#### THE SEVENTY-SECOND REGIMENT ILLINOIS INFANTRY.

The Seventy-second was one of the Chicago Board of Trade regiments, and went into the field, August 23, 1862, under the lead of Col. F. A. Starring, 967 strong, and spent most of that fall in campaigning in western Kentucky, leaving Columbus, Kentucky, for Vicksburg, November 21, 1862; spent the winter of 1862-3 in the movements preparatory to the Vicksburg campaign. At Champion Hills the regiment came into the fight at an opportune moment, and by a bold dash helped turn the left flank of the enemy, and drove him from the field. The regiment was engaged at Big Black, and in all the siege operations up to the fall of Vicksburg on July 4, 1863. The regiment then participated in the capture of Natchez. In October, 1863, the regiment returned to Vicksburg, Mississippi, and did duty until the next October, 1864, as provost-guards of the city. The regiment moved to the support of Thomas at Nashville, November 13, 1864, and became a part of Gen. Schofield's forces, and was actively engaged at Franklin, where it lost nine out of the sixteen officers engaged, and 152 men killed and severely wounded. The regiment fought like tigers, and to them and the men of Opdyck's Brigade is largely due the credit of saving the union army from a crushing defeat. The

regiment took an active and honorable part in the battles of Nashville, December 15 and 16, and followed Hood's flying army to Clifton, and there embarked and proceeded to Eastport, Mississippi, and went from there to the department of the Gulf, taking a part in the capture of Spanish Fort and Blakeley in the vicinity of Mobile. From Mobile, the Seventy-second marched across the country to Montgomery, a distance of just 200 miles, in just 11 days. The regiment went from Montgomery to Vicksburg, in July, 1865, and August 6 was mustered out at Vicksburg. The regiment came home with twenty-two officers and 310 men out of the 967 that enlisted. Iroquois county furnished Company G with a corporal and one man, one of whom died, and also Company K two men, William and James Shottenkirk, of Onarga, both of whom died. The writer lay in the post hospital, at Franklin, Tennessee, when James Shottenkirk died there of his wounds, and will always remember his piteous cries and prayers for relief from his suffering, and how kindly and tenderly his brother Daniel sought to soothe the terrible agony of the wounded hero, until death's icy hand was laid upon the fevered brow of the young soldier, and his pitiful cry of "Oh, Danny, give me water," was hushed forever.

#### THE SEVENTY-SIXTH REGIMENT ILLINOIS INFANTRY.

The Seventy-sixth Regiment of Illinois Infantry was raised in the counties of Kankakee, Iroquois, Champaign and Grundy. Iroquois furnished three full companies, to wit: Companies A, E and K, and quite a number to Company D from the French Canadian colonists residing in the north part of this county.

The regiment was mustered into service August 22, 1862, at Kankakee city, with Alonzo W. Mack, of Kankakee city, as its colonel, and Dr. Franklin Blades, of Iroquois county, as surgeon, and also Dr. William A. Babcock, of this county, as first assistant surgeon. While the regiment was in camp at Kankakee, and before it was mustered, S. C. Munhall, widely known among his comrades as "Urchin," sent a communication to his home paper, the "Patriot" of Champaign, in which he gives a racy description of the first camp experiences of the Seventy-sixth; and we here take the liberty of making an extract from it, and are frank to say, in this connection, that to our friend "Urchin" we are largely indebted for the material from which we have evolved this rather imperfect regimental sketch. But to return to "Urchin's" letter; he wrote, under date of August 20, 1862: "Our camp is situated about one mile north of Kankakee city, in the old fair ground. It is a beautiful situation, well supplied

with water, together with plenty of shade trees, which are a fine thing in camp, especially after drilling in the hot sun for a period of two hours. We have an abundance of 'grub,' such as it is, namely, army crackers (thoroughly seasoned), coffee, branded 'pure Rio,' (which resembles red-oak bark, pulverized), sugar, which has the appearance of being half sand), rice, molasses (one pint to every eighteen men for three meals), and other notions, such as candles, soap, etc. But so it goes! We all manage to get enough to eat, drink and wear, besides having plenty of fun. There are now in camp some 1,400 men from the different counties, ordered to rendezvous here. Quite an excitement was created in camp last night by the report that the regiment was ordered to Cairo. A great many companies did not feel disposed to go before receiving their bounty money, but after cooking two days' rations, and a great many of them packing their 'duds' the report turned out to be a regular h-o-a-x. Our company (G) received the county orders yesterday morning much to our surprise. They jumped around in as good spirits as so many grasshoppers until they received orders to go to Cairo. It is expected our regiment will organize to-day or to-morrow. We are looking anxiously for the time to come as we expect a little \$40 in 'greenbacks' when that day rolls round. The principal amusement for evenings is to 'reach' for chickens. One mess in an adjoining company went out Saturday evening and returned with twenty-eight fine pullets, a goose and a couple of fancy ducks, so you can judge how they lived on the following Sabbath."

As they had anticipated, the regiment was sent to Cairo immediately after it was mustered in, and from thence to Columbus, Kentucky, where it remained about a month; and again we will quote from one of Munhall's letters, describing the camp and camp-life at Columbus. He wrote September 7, soon after arriving there: "This particular locality of the Confederacy is what your correspondent would style a 'seedy country,' and furthermore I will say, and vouch for the truth at the same time, the inhabitants are peculiarly suited to the country. The country surrounding us does not appear to produce anything but contrabands, mules and secessionists. We are encamped on the top of a hill, some two hundred feet above the level of the river, about a quarter of a mile northeast of the town of Columbus. The grounds were evacuated by the rebels before they evacuated this place. Columbus is truly a stronghold. The fortifications extend nearly around the town, and huge breastworks are along the river. Every portion of these fortifications is represented by innumerable mortars, columbiads and cannon, among which there are many sixty-four and one hundred and twenty-eight pounders that now stand grinning and



ready to belch forth 'conciliation' by the ton upon the traitor hordes that dare to confront them. Taking everything into consideration, we have a first-rate camp ground. The health of the regiment is good. There are only ten or twelve in the hospital and none seriously ill. The boys are in good spirits and anxious to try the range of their new Enfields the regiment captured. The guns are tip-top. They were captured from the rebel steamer *Fair Play*, which was taken with a cargo of guns, ammunition, etc., by our troops on the expedition up the Yazoo river. They were designed to be sent to Hindman for his rebel crew, but our boys will put them to a better use. The cartridge-boxes and other accouterments were made in London, and, of course, bear the stamp of the English crown. \* \* \* \* In pursuance of orders from headquarters, we are confined to camp much closer than the boys like, but we take it as a 'necessity of war,' and the only way by which proper discipline may be maintained. We have reveille at half-past four o'clock, when Sergeant Miller admonishes us to 'fall in for roll-call'; next comes breakfast, then drill for two hours; we are allowed then to make our own amusement till noon. After dinner 'ye soldier goeth where he listeth,' taking care not to intrude on the sacred soil of the sentinel's beat, lest he might be forced to visit the officer of the guard, who, perchance, may offer 'extra inducements' for him to take quarters in the guard-house. At five o'clock we have dress parade, after which comes supper and drill. Tattoo and roll-call at nine, when you would suppose we all retired to rest, but on the contrary then commence the hilarities of the day; while a few of the staid and sober ones would fain retire to sweet repose, a majority of 'gay and festive cusses' seek to while away the allotted 'half hour' in the most uproarious amusements that can be devised, singing, dancing, speechifying, etc. etc., until from exhaustion, and a hearty exercise of lungs, limbs and muscle, they gradually 'subside,' and a deathly silence pervades the camp until the ominous blast of the bugle awakes the sleepers, and the bustle of the previous day is resumed. Taking all into consideration, 'sogering' here is a gay life, yet there are many of the boys who would gladly exchange it for the comforts of the homes they left, did not duty to themselves and their country demand the sacrifice."

Columbus did not prove so healthy a place as "Urchin" thought it would. Before the close of September the regiment buried several of its members that died there of disease. October 3, 1862, the Seventy-sixth moved by rail to Bolivar, Tennessee, where it remained in camp for several weeks, doing camp and garrison duty until November 3, when it marched to La Grange, Tennessee, and still later in the month, on or about the 24th, it started with other troops under Grant

on his famous but rather unfortunate Mississippi campaign, marching as far as Yocona, Mississippi, when the unexpected surrender of Holly Springs, without a proper defense, deranged Grant's plans, and so imperiled his army that he retired again to his base of supplies in Tennessee. But previous to the withdrawal from Yocono, the Seventy-sixth suffered while encamped there for three weeks from the scarcity of rations, and subsisted almost entirely on corn.

The regiment upon its return to Tennessee encamped at Moscow, at which place Col. Mack resigned, and Lieut. Col. S. T. Busey was commissioned colonel, to rank from January 7, 1863. The Seventy-sixth remained in camp at Moscow until February 5, 1863, when it marched to La Fayette, Tennessee, remaining there in camp about a month, and here again our inimitable "Urchin" writes a letter, giving so laconic an account of the manner in which soldiers made merry over discomforts and misfortunes, that we cannot forbear republishing a part of it. Under date of February 9, he writes among other things: \* \* \* "Before closing this epistle I will say a few words in regard to our last march. On the 5th inst. our regiment marched from Moscow, Tennessee, to this place, over roads that would have been considered impassable in time of peace; the snow was about four inches deep, and the depth of the mud under the snow was without limitation. The day was the most disagreeable of any that we have had since we have been in the service of 'Uncle Sam.' The northeast wind blew cold, and the snow fell thick and fast, but we made the trip without any serious accidents, and camped about 3 o'clock P.M. in the muddiest place we could find near the village of La Fayette, ten miles distant from Moscow. After we were halted and arms stacked, we commenced work shoveling snow and mud, hoping to discover dry soil enough on which to pitch our tents, but our hopes were blasted and our efforts defeated. To sleep on the frozen ground without fire, or in the mud with fire, seemed to be our destiny. Choosing the latter we pitched our tents, built our fire in the center (Sibley tents), took our little ration of 'hard tack' and 'sow belly,' and wilted down with three rails under us crossways to keep us above board, determined to make the best of a bad bargain. The night proved a severe one, but morning found us above the surface. It was thought by some that one man in our mess had gone under, but on calling the roll was found present. After partaking of 'Uncle Sam's' hospitalities we floated out each man on a rail and commenced to improve our quarters. We now boast of good quarters and stylish living. The mud is rapidly drying up, the average depth is now about sixteen inches. We hope to leave here for Memphis soon as we are now well fixed. It spoils soldiers to remain in

good quarters long." March 9 the regiment did leave its comfortable quarters at La Fayette, and marched to Memphis, Tennessee, where it remained just thirty days, and then joined in the Hernando expedition, returning to Memphis again April 24, 1863, where it remained until May 13, when the Seventy-sixth took passage on the steamer Fort Wayne, and steamed down the broad Mississippi toward Vicksburg. During the second day's ride down the river, the boat was fired into by guerillas at Greenville, and on the 15th of the month it landed at Young's Point, Louisiana. On the 18th it marched to Bowen's Landing and crossed the river. May 19 the regiment was assigned a position on the extreme union left, and continued in this position until the capture of the city. In the great charge of May 22, the Seventy-sixth bore a prominent part, it being the first real fight the regiment had ever participated in; notwithstanding the men of the Seventy-sixth demeaned themselves with all the steadiness and courage of veterans. During the long siege of Vicksburg the regiment lost heavily, and among the number slain was Lieut. Peter I. Williams, of Company E, one of the best and bravest of men, universally loved and esteemed by his comrades and all who knew him before he became a soldier. After the capture of Vicksburg the regiment accompanied Sherman to Jackson, Mississippi, participating in the battle and capture. And after the fall of the boasted Sebastopol of the rebels of Mississippi (Vicksburg) August 12, 1863, embarked and moved to Natchez, Mississippi. September 1 it went on the expedition of Gen. Crocker into Louisiana, returning on the 8th, after which the regiment received the name among the boys of that department of the "Alligator Regiment."

On the 16th of the month the Seventy-sixth again embarked at Natchez and returned to Vicksburg. November 28 the regiment marched to Camp Cowan, and February 1, 1864, it accompanied Gen. W. T. Sherman on the Meridian raid, during which it participated in a number of pretty sharp skirmishes on the march to Meridian. It moved from Meridian to Enterprise city, where the regiment camped two days, and employed the time in tearing up and destroying the railroad, and left Enterprise February 19, 1864, and after marching fourteen days on half rations, reached camp, eight miles east of Vicksburg. The regiment lost but four men on this campaign, two of whom were wounded and the other two were captured near Enterprise, just previous to the departure of the regiment, and were afterward recaptured from the rebels near Hillsboro, February 22, by a foraging party. The Seventy-sixth remained in their camp near Vicksburg, doing picket and camp duty, till May 4, 1864, when it joined the command of Gen. McArthur in the expedition up the Yazoo river, taking part



in the engagements at Benton, Vaughn's Station, and Deasonville. The campaign occupied seventeen days, and the troops suffered many hardships. It returned to Vicksburg May 21, and remained in camp until June 26, when it marched to St. Albans, and thence returned to Vicksburg again by rail. July 1 the regiment marched to Clear creek, and July 3 started with the command of Maj.-Gen. H. W. Slocum on an expedition through central Mississippi, to the capital (Jackson) arriving there on the 5th, after a fatiguing march and almost continuous skirmishing, the Seventy-sixth being in advance. It remained in camp at Jackson until July 6, when marching orders were received at four o'clock P.M., when the regiment moved about three miles and met the enemy, and were fiercely attacked, culminating in a general attack upon the union forces, and continuing until darkness compelled a cessation of active hostilities, which were resumed on the morning of the 7th, lasting till noon, the Seventy-sixth meanwhile taking a prominent part in the battle, being deployed as skirmishers; were finally cut off, by a flank movement of the rebel forces, from the union army, and forced to fight their way out of the "trap," over a hotly contested field, losing from the regiment nearly 100 men. Capt. Davis, of Company K, left eight of his brave men dead on the field. July 9 the regiment had made the retreat, and was again encamped at Vicksburg. On the 23d the prisoners who had been captured at Jackson were exchanged at Fort Hill, and rejoined the regiment. July 29 the regiment moved to Morganza's Bend, Louisiana, and August 24 moved by steamer to Port Hudson, Louisiana, returning to Morganza's Bend on the 28th of the same month. It embarked on steamer September 3, and was landed at the mouth of White river September 7.

October 18, 1864, it moved from the mouth of White river to Memphis, Tennessee, camping in Fort Pickering, where the regiment remained until October 27, when it reëmbarked on steamer and returned to the mouth of White river, Arkansas. November 1 it started to Duvall's Bluff, arriving November 9. It remained at this point till November 27, when the regiment again reëmbarked and returned to Memphis, where it remained until December 31. It moved to Kennersville, Louisiana, arriving early in January, 1865, and lay there in camp until the army was organized for the Florida campaign. During the month of February, 1865, the regiment was transported by ocean steamers to Fort Barrancas, Florida, a portion of the regiment being on the steamer George Peabody, which was almost totally disabled in a storm, and was only saved, with a precious cargo of 800 soldiers, by the coolness of the officers in command and the heroic conduct of the

men. All the ambulances, wagons and nearly 200 mules and horses were thrown overboard. The detachment of the regiment on the ill-fated steamer was returned to New Orleans and went to Lakeport by rail, where it embarked and crossed lakes Ponchartrain and Borgne, reaching the Florida coast nearly a week after the rest of the command.

From Barrancas the Seventy-sixth and other regiments went on an expedition to Pollard, and from thence returned to Pensacola, where it went into camp and remained until the troops set out on the Mobile campaign. During its stay at Barrancas and Pensacola, the Seventy-sixth was attached to Gen. Steele's division.

In marching out from Pensacola on the campaign against Blakeley, the union army of Gen. Steele passed over the same road upon which Gen. Jackson—"Old Hickory"—moved an army of 3,000 men in 1818, and found it a miserable, sandy road, in spite of its historic association. March 31 Gen. Steele's army took up a position in front of the fortifications of Blakeley, not a little to the surprise of the rebels behind the works, who had just learned from scouts that the union army was moving on towards Montgomery, and had got "stuck" in the Florida swamps after leaving Pensacola. The Seventy-sixth formed a part of Spiceley's brigade, of Steele's division, of the Thirteenth Corps, and in the line of investment held the "right center," to the left of the Stockton road leading into Blakeley, which position, with the Seventy-sixth in advance of both brigade and division, was held during the eight-days siege operations, and up to the time of the assault and capture of the stronghold, April 9, 1865,—being the last battle of any importance of the war of the rebellion. Throughout the siege in its advanced position the Seventy-sixth behaved with coolness and courage, but particularly distinguished itself in the final assault upon the works. Gen. C. C. Andrews, in his history of the Mobile campaign, gives the following truthful and glowing description of the charge of the Seventy-sixth: "The Seventy-sixth Illinois charged directly on the redoubt in their front—the one north of the Stockton road—and preserved its alignment well until it got to the second line of abattis. One man of that regiment was killed at the first line of abattis and rifle-pits, then at the second line the battle became fierce and bloody. The confederates maintained a bold front from behind their breastworks, and when the Seventy-sixth was within fifty yards of the redoubt it suffered severely from the confederate musketry and artillery. While a part of the regiment maintained a spirited fire, the rest crossed the abattis. Lieut. William F. Kenaya was shot through a leg at the second abattis, and nearer the works was hit in the ankle

joint of his other leg, then unable to walk he kept upright on his knees and rallied and cheered the men. The color-sergeant (Hussey) was killed within twenty feet of the works; then the colors were taken by the noble and brave Corporal Goldwood, who, as he was planting them on the parapet, received the contents of three muskets so close that the discharge burnt his clothes, and he fell dead inside the works with the colors in his arms. The Seventy-sixth and the confederates fought across the works, and those of the regiment in the rear were coming up as fast as they could pass the obstructions. Col. Busey ran along close to the parapet and with his revolver disabled the gunner of a howitzer about to be fired, and which afterward proved to have a double charge of grape and canister, then turning to the right he exchanged shots with two at short range. Afterward he ordered Lieut.-Col. Jones, Capts. Hughes and Ingersoll and Lieut. Warner, with from twenty to fifty men to charge the right flank of the redoubt, while he with another squad charged the front. They charged with bayonets and drove the confederates from the works. Fifty yards in rear of the redoubt the ground began to slope considerably. It had been cleared of underbrush, and the latter had been piled along the crest. Behind that cover the confederates formed again and gave another volley, wounding among others Col. Busey and Capt. Hughes. Then the Seventy-sixth charged them again, and they threw down their arms and ran into the woods toward the landing. Col. Busey sent detachments in pursuit of them. Upward of 400 prisoners fell into the hands of the Seventy-sixth. It had five men killed inside the works. Its whole number of killed was sixteen, of whom, besides those already mentioned, were Sergeant Perkins and Corporals Hopkins and Tremaine. There were eighty wounded, some mortally, so that its entire casualties were about 100. Among the wounded were Lieuts. Martin and Warner. The Seventy-sixth entered the redoubt over the south salient and over the breastworks extending south. Its national colors were planted on the breastworks. It is claimed by his comrades that Private Eldrick Broulette, of Company D, was the first one over the works. He was killed fifty yards inside the works by a confederate captain, and the latter was killed by Broulette's comrade. The regiment used the bayonet in the charge and displayed throughout the highest degree of valor. No regiment on the field that day suffered so heavily. None exhibited more intrepid bravery; and higher praise than that cannot be awarded troops."

The colors of the Seventy-sixth were the first planted on the rebel works in this assault, and of all the regiments that were engaged in the charge, none suffered as did this regiment. It lost 118 men killed and



wounded, out of the 260 that advanced to the assault when the signal gun was fired. The graves of seventeen heroic dead mark the spot where the colors were planted by that brave boy,—“Charley” Goldwood.

After the capture of Blakeley the Seventy-sixth marched to Stark's Landing, on Mobile bay, and embarked for Mobile, and steamed across the bay to the captured city, where it encamped for several weeks. It moved from Mobile to Selma, Alabama, by steamer, where it remained but a short time, and returned to Mobile. Afterward the regiment embarked on the steamer Herman Livingston for Galveston, Texas, at which place it went into camp, and remained until July 22, when it was mustered out.

The regiment traveled over 12,000 miles, and saw a great deal of hard service. It campaigned in eight different states of the confederacy. During the term of service it received 156 recruits, which on the muster-out were transferred to the Thirty-seventh Illinois. The regiment returned with 471 officers and men, having been more fortunate than many other regiments, who saw no more service, in losing by battle and disease only a little less than half its original number.

On the non-commissioned staff of the Seventy-sixth, Iroquois county was represented by Sergt.-Maj. Joseph P. Schooley, of Ash Grove, and principal musician Isaac D. Courtright, of Middleport. Sergt.-Maj. Schooley was, June 13, 1864, to accept promotion as captain of the 4th Miss. Art., A.D. He was succeeded January 8, 1864, by S. C. Munhall (“Urchin”) of Company B, then of Champaign, but now the present popular postmaster of the city of Watseka.

Company A was organized at Middleport, in July, 1862, with George C. Harrington as captain, and was composed mainly of citizens of Middleport, Belmont, Iroquois, Concord and Beaver townships. Capt. Harrington, on the resignation of Maj. Dubois, was promoted major, to rank as such from January 7, 1863, and continued with the regiment until June 27, 1863, when he resigned. On the promotion of Capt. Harrington, Lieut. Abraham Andrew became captain, and continued in command of Company A until it was mustered out. Austin W. Hoyle, late county treasurer of this county, enlisted in the Seventy-sixth, and was the first orderly-sergeant of Company A, and was finally promoted to the second lieutenantcy of A, a position he well deserved, so his comrades say. James W. Kay, a private soldier in this company, was elected county clerk of this county in 1865, and made a very efficient officer. Quite a number of the survivors of Company A are respected citizens of Watseka and vicinity.

Rev. Abram Irvin organized the first week in August, 1862, from

citizens residing in the eastern half of the county, Company E of the Seventy-sixth, and was commissioned its first captain, with Rev. Peter I. Williams, of Milford, as first lieutenant, and C. L. Hoyle, of Beaver, as second lieutenant. Capt. Irvin was discharged December 10, 1864, and Lient. Williams having been killed at Vicksburg, Lient. Hoyle was promoted to the captaincy. James H. Eastburn, who is now a well-to-do farmer of Sheldon township, was one of the sergeants of Company E, and before the close of the war was promoted to the first lieutenantcy of the company. Sergeant Frank Williamson, of Company E, has for several years been the representative of Prairie Green township on the board of supervisors of this county, and Robert W. Foster, a private of the company, has served as supervisor of both Stockland and Sheldon townships. Many of the solid farmers of Milford, Stockland, Beaver and Sheldon townships were soldiers in Company E, and good soldiers, too.

The majority of Company K were citizens of Ash Grove and Loda townships, in this county, and the remainder belonged in the northern part of Ford county. The officers of the company were all from this county. Capt. Joseph Davis, of Ash Grove, was the first commander of the company, and continued with it up to February 24, 1865, when he resigned, and was succeeded by William A. Watkins, of Loda, who officiated as captain until the regiment was mustered out. The gallant color-sergeant, Henry B. Hussey, of Ash Grove, who was killed in the charge upon Blakeley while bearing aloft the colors of his regiment, was a sergeant in Company K, and many of the survivors of this company may be found in Ash Grove and Loda townships as hard-working, well-to-do farmers. Many of the men from Iroquois in the Seventy-sixth were either farmers or farmer's sons when they enlisted, and after having manfully assisted in thrashing the rebels, they quietly returned to their farms, and the same persistent toil and carefulness for which they were distinguished as soldiers, has made them, even in pursuing the arts of peace, both prosperous and useful citizens; at least such is the case in the majority of instances.

#### THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH REGIMENT ILLINOIS INFANTRY.

This heroic regiment, also one of the Board of Trade regiments, went into the field from Chicago 840 strong during the first week of September, 1862, under the lead of Colonel (afterward general) Francis T. Sherman, and in less than a month gave proof of its excellent fighting qualities at the battle of Perryville, losing four killed and forty-one wounded. Afterward, as a part of the right wing of Rose-

crans' army, under Gen. Philip H. Sheridan, it took an active part in the desperate fighting on the banks of Stone river, performing many valorous acts upon that hotly contested field, fighting hand-to-hand with the confident foe. After the battle of Chickamauga, the regiment was assigned to the First Brigade, Second Division of the old "Fighting Fourth Corps," and participated in the assault upon Mission Ridge, being one of the first regiments to plant the national flag upon the captured line of defenses that crowned the ridge. The Eighty-eighth took an active part in the East Tennessee campaign during the winter of 1863-4, and being for the most part shelterless, half clothed and half starved, the regiment suffered severely, and not always uncomplainingly, but always doing its duty in the face of all disappointments and privations, and doing it well. It took a part as a portion of the Fourth Corps, Army of the Cumberland, which formed the center of Sherman's grand army of invasion, under "Pap Thomas," in all of the principal engagements that occurred during the Atlanta campaign, being prominently engaged at Rocky Face Ridge, Resaca, Adairsville, New Hope Church, Pine Mountain, Kenesaw, Smyrna Camp Ground, Atlanta, Jonesboro and Lovejoy Station.

After the fall of Atlanta the regiment was dispatched to Chattanooga, Tennessee, where it did duty, and at Bridgeport, Alabama, until it joined its old brigade at Pulaski, Tennessee, where the Fourth Corps lay waiting and watching for the advance of Hood upon Nashville. The regiment participated in the heavy skirmishing with the enemy at Columbia and Spring Hill.

In the desperate and bloody encounter at Franklin, November 30, 1864, the regiment, as a part of Opdyck's immortal brigade, won imperishable renown. The First Brigade, Second Division, Fourth Army Corps, under Col. Opdyck, formed on the march from Spring Hill the rear-guard of the retreating union army, and when in the afternoon, in the presence of a hostile army nearly 50,000 strong, Col. Opdyck fell back to Franklin, his command passed into the union lines that environed the little town on the Columbia pike, and finding the rest of the union army in position for battle, he halted his tired troops opportunely in the rear of the two brigades holding the breastworks on the right and left of the Columbia pike. And when an hour or two later the desperate assault was made on the center, and the union lines driven back, and the rebel masses, flushed with their brief success were crowding wildly into the breach, then the heroic old veterans of the Eighty-eighth, Thirty-sixth, Forty-fourth, Seventy-third and Seventy-fourth Illinois regiments, the Twenty-fourth Wisconsin, and the One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Ohio regiments, comprising the First



Brigade, saw that immediate action was demanded of them as reserves, waited for no word of command, but instantly fixed bayonets, and when their gallant leader turned to his men he saw they were ready for a charge, and the chivalric Opdyck, in his clear, ringing tones, gave the command, "forward First Brigade to the lines," and forward dashed the daring brigade with a line of gleaming steel, that soon struck down in death many an exultant foeman. The conflict was brief but bloody, and assisted by a few of the disorganized masses of the regiments that had been driven out of their works a few moments before, the stout-hearted men of the First Brigade drove the dense, gray masses beyond the lines. Four regimental commanders fell, but every man of that noble brigade was a hero, and fought as if on his own individual prowess depended the fortunes of the imperiled army of the Union, and actuated by such heroism, the daring brigade, inside of twenty minutes, drove back a conquering force vastly superior in point of numbers, recapturing eight pieces of artillery, 400 prisoners and ten battle-flags, and left the disputed ground covered with hundreds of brave foemen, dead, or terribly wounded. It is doubtful if the record of civilized warfare shows fiercer fighting than was done by the Eighty-eighth and its gallant companion regiments in this brief but bloody struggle at Franklin. The writer's regiment, on the extreme left of the First Division, Fourth Corps, was lying behind a line of imperfect breastworks, a short distance to the right of where the union lines were forced back, and watched in spite of the fire in their front, as well as they could for the blinding smoke, the terrible wrestle of the men of the west with the impetuous sons of the south, that was taking place to our left, to see who should gain the mastery. The success of the confederates in holding their ground would have cut us off from the bridge across the Harpeth river, and compelled the surrender of the greater part of the outnumbered and nearly exhausted union army. Hence, we watched with bated breath till we saw the "gray coats" falling back; then our fears were quieted for the time, and thoughts of ANDERSONVILLE were dispelled. At Nashville the regiment behaved in the two-days battle with its usual bravery, and engaged in the pursuit of the flying foe, following on the heels of Hood to the Tennessee river.

The regiment was mustered out in June, 1865. Of the 900 that went into the field 229, all told, returned. Col. Sherman was captured at Atlanta and thrown into prison, and managed to break out, but was hunted down and caught by bloodhounds before he could reach our lines.

Iroquois county was represented in the Eighty-eighth as follows:

Dr. A. C. Rankin, Loda, first assistant surgeon; Company C, Lieut. Robert O. Crawford, three sergeants, two corporals and thirty-two men; Company F, one man; Company K, one sergeant and three men. A sergeant and seven men of the above number died on the field of battle, or in line of duty, and one, James Brett, died in Andersonville.

#### THE EIGHTY-NINTH REGIMENT ILLINOIS INFANTRY.

The Eighty-ninth, or "Railroad Regiment," made up mostly of railroad employes, was mustered into the United States service at Camp Douglas, Chicago, August 27, 1862, and in about a week was hurried to Kentucky, where it formed a part of Gen. Nelson's army till October, when it was placed in Gen. Willich's brigade of McCook's corps, and continued in Willich's brigade to the close of the war, and making for itself a good record in the battles fought by the army of the Cumberland. At Stone River it lost Capt. Willett and 142 men. At Chickamauga its loss was very great. Lieut. Col. Duncan J. Hall, three captains and a lieutenant offered up their lives on the altar of their country, and 109 men were killed, wounded and captured. At Mission Ridge a captain and lieutenant were killed, and thirty-five men killed and wounded. During the Atlanta campaign the regiment was engaged at Rocky Face, Resaca, Dallas, Kenesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, Atlanta, Jonesboro and Lovejoy, losing in the campaign 211 men killed and wounded, one captain and one lieutenant killed and several officers wounded. During the battle of Franklin the Third Division, Fourth Corps was held in reserve across the Harpeth river to cover the retreat of Schofield's army, and the Eighty-ninth belonged to Willich's brigade of this division. At Nashville the Eighty-ninth was actively engaged, and sustained a loss in the two-days fight of thirty-nine men. After the defeat of Hood it pursued his forces to the Tennessee river. During its term of service the regiment mustered on its original roll and recruits 1,403 men; out of these 820 men died of disease or wounds, or were killed in action. The regiment was mustered out at Nashville, June 10, 1865. From this county there were nine men and Corporal Oliver Bunker in Company D, four of the nine men were killed or died, and one died in Andersonville prison.

#### THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH REGIMENT ILLINOIS INFANTRY.

The One Hundred and Thirteenth regiment, known as the "Third Board of Trade Regiment," was made up of volunteers from the counties of Cook, Kankakee and Iroquois almost wholly. This county

furnished three full companies,—D, F and I, half of Company B, and about one-fourth of Company H,—and these companies afterward received a large number of recruits, so that this county furnished nearly two-fifths of the rank and file of the One Hundred and Thirteenth regiment. Most of the men for this regiment were enlisted during the month of August, 1862, but the regiment was not mustered until October 1, and from that time till November 5 following, it was employed in guarding rebel prisoners confined in Camp Douglas, and fitting itself by drill and discipline for the active duties of the field. At the last mentioned date the regiment left Camp Douglas for Memphis, Tennessee, and on its arrival at the latter place it was placed in Gen. Sherman's corps (the Fifteenth), and accompanied him in his expedition into northern Mississippi, generally designated as the "Tallahatchie expedition." On its return from this campaign it moved against Vicksburg with Sherman, and formed a part of the brigade commanded by Gen. Giles A. Smith, and in the division of Gen. Morgan L. Smith. On this expedition the One Hundred and Thirteenth participated in the fight at Milliken's Bend and the engagement at Chickasaw Bayou. The regiment participated in the assault upon and capture of Arkansas Post; and the One Hundred and Thirteenth and other regiments of Gen. Giles A. Smith's brigade behaved with great gallantry in the face of a destructive fire from the enemy's rifle-pits at a short range, and suffered a considerable loss in consequence. The One Hundred and Thirteenth especially suffered from the raking fire to which it was subjected. After this battle Gen. Sherman determined to honor the men who had, by their bravery, done so much to insure the capture of the prisoners and fort, by sending them home in charge of the prisoners; and Companies C, D, F, I and K were selected from the One Hundred and Thirteenth,—being just one-half of the regiment, and they were the companies that had suffered the greatest loss,—to guard the prisoners to Springfield. These five companies were to remain north and fill up their thinned ranks with new recruits. The three companies from Iroquois (D, F and I) were in this wing of the regiment sent back, and remained at Springfield for some time. The other five companies, in which there were Iroquois men in two of the companies (B and H), moved from Arkansas Post to Young's Point. Col. Hoge, while the regiment lay at Young's Point, was appointed provost-marshal of the Fifteenth Corps; and while here the One Hundred and Thirteenth lost many noble men by sickness, as was also the bitter experience of all the regiments in that army while lying in camp at Young's Point, and the place will long be remembered with horror by those who survived, and who helped with trembling hands and



aching hearts to place under the sod of this fated point so many of their dead comrades.

During its camp life at Young's Point the One Hundred and Thirteenth went with the brigade chosen, and led by Gen. Sherman, in person, up the Black Bayou to the relief of Admiral Porter and flotilla, surrounded by the land forces of the enemy. The admiral was in danger of having his fleet captured and sunk, and was in poor plight in the treacherous, shallow bayou to make any resistance or escape to the Mississippi. On this expedition the brigade, with plucky Gen. Sherman, who went afoot with the boys, made a forced march of twenty-five miles through swamps, over extemporized bridges made of a single log or plank, marching in single file, and suffering many hardships and numberless inconveniences, but finally arriving in time to whip the rebel forces, and let Porter get his fleet back to safer waters. And then the tired brigade had no alternative left but to "coon" their way back again as they came to solid land, consuming ten days in the unpleasant but highly successful and satisfactory task.

That portion of the One Hundred and Thirteenth in the field, composed of the five companies left, after the detachment of five companies went north in charge of prisoners from Arkansas Post, were under the immediate command of Col. George B. Hoge, and embraced not only the five companies left behind, but the sick and convalescents of the other five companies, as well as all men on detached duty. This detachment in the field will hereafter be designated as "the regiment," and we will here say it was with Sherman in the march to the rear of Vicksburg, and was engaged in most of the hard fighting that culminated in the fall of Vicksburg, and the capture of Gen. Pemberton's army. In this campaign the One Hundred and Thirteenth suffered from both disease and the bullets of the enemy, losing fully one entire third of the force that went into the campaign, including their gallant colonel, who was severely wounded. The regiment was put on provost duty for some little time at Chickasaw Bayou, a very unhealthy locality, and in a few days—during July and August—the greater part of the force was on the sick list, and several died at this post. From Chickasaw Bayou the regiment moved to Corinth in the latter part of August, 1863, and remained there until the month of January following, being mostly engaged in doing post duty and scouting after guerilla bands. Col. Hoge meantime commanded the post at Corinth, until its evacuation by the federal forces, January 25, 1864, when the colonel and his regiment proceeded to Memphis, Tennessee, where the colonel took command of the second brigade of the post defenses of the city of Memphis. While at Memphis, the five companies that had

been doing guard and provost duty in Illinois, rejoined the regiment in March, 1864. The brigade under Col. Hoge accompanied Gen. Sturgis in his unsuccessful expedition against Gen. N. B. Forrest, the daring rebel raider, and cruel butcherer of unoffending and helpless prisoners at Fort Pillow.

In the disastrous expedition of Gen. Sturgis to Guntown, Mississippi, the regiment suffered severely, losing fourteen officers and 135 men killed, wounded or captured. Among the officers captured was Capt. George E. King and Lient. J. E. Leatherman (then sergeant) of the Iroquois companies. Inasmuch as the regiment was a great sufferer by this disaster to the union arms, it is but fair that we briefly sketch the main incidents of this unfortunate campaign. Gen. Sturgis, in command of about 12,000 troops, including the commands of Gen. A. J. Smith and Grierson's cavalry division, set out from Memphis June 1, 1864, with Tupelo, distant 160 miles to the southeast, as his objective point,—Tupelo being situated on the Mobile & Ohio railroad, and a point of considerable strategic importance. The sultry weather and heavy rains made the marching laborious and slow, and exhausted the whole command so much that they were in a poor condition for a pitched battle when the terrible blow fell upon them. For days the tired army toiled over miserable roads, through mud and rain, until the morning of June 10, when the sun shone out bright, though hot, and the wearied fellows felt rejoiced to think that fair weather had dawned upon them once more, and moved forward with a more buoyant step, when early in the day Gen. Grierson's cavalry rode upon Forrest's troopers, and sharp fighting ensued, Grierson's gallant troopers driving the enemy's horse before them to the banks of Tishomingo creek, where they encountered Forrest's infantry, strongly posted on the steep bank of the creek opposite to the advancing army of Sturgis. At this stage Gen. Sturgis, instead of moving up his troops and forming a strong assaulting column, and then moving forward cautiously, hurried up his infantry on the "double quick," many of the regiment having run several miles in the hot sun, were pushed forward singly and without any apparent order against the enemy lying in his strong position, only to be ruthlessly cut down by a well-directed fire from the ranks of Forrest; and despite the fact that many of the federal regiments went into the fight exhausted and panting with the fatigue of their long run to the battlefield, and were pushed forward in the face of a murderous fire from a foe strongly posted under cover, while the union regiments were without support of any kind, still these brave fellows, under all these disadvantages and discouragements, did nobly under the most trying circumstances that could befall an army; and many regiments,

the One Hundred and Thirteenth among the number, behaved splendidly. The fighting began at about eleven o'clock in the forenoon and had become general by one o'clock, and continued with fury till four, when the enemy having turned the union left, and there was danger of the whole force being entirely surrounded, a retreat was ordered, and then a wild scene followed, which cannot be adequately described. Soon after the retreat began night fell upon the panic stricken army, and as if to render confusion confounded, the wagon train became mired in a swamp, blocking up the road so that the artillery could not be got past the obstruction and had to be abandoned; and the infantry, such as were not cut off and captured, were only saved by the vigilant bravery of Grierson's faithful cavalymen, who held back the triumphant and plundering troopers of Forrest. Many of the fugitives, cut off from their regiments in the confusion of the retreat, struck singly and in squads across the country for Memphis, and many actually marched a hundred miles before tasting food. The whole command, or what was left of it, reached Memphis half starved, footsore and completely exhausted, and all bitterly cursing the heartless and stupid conduct of Gen. Sturgis, who got off the field that witnessed the death or capture of many a nobler and braver soldier, at the first indication of a rout, and reached Memphis sound and safe. Gen. Sturgis may have been a good soldier and a patriot, but it will be long before the men he led into that fatal trap will be willing to regard him as such.

After the defeat of Sturgis and the retreat to Memphis the One Hundred and Thirteenth did picket and provost duty at Memphis until October, 1864, when it took a part in Gen. Washburne's expedition, and was engaged in the disastrous fight at Eastport, Mississippi, where it lost two officers and fourteen men.

The regiment, on its return from Eastport, continued the rest of its term doing duty as picket and provost-guard at Memphis—Col. Hoge, now a general, its old commander, being provost-marshal of West Tennessee. The regiment was mustered out June 20, 1865. On the regimental staff of the One Hundred and Thirteenth, Iroquois county was represented by Dr. Lucien B. Brown, of Sheldon, who was commissioned first assistant surgeon on the organization of the regiment, and afterward, June 27, 1864, he was promoted surgeon of the regiment, and made a very efficient officer. William A. McLean, of Middleport, was the first quartermaster, and served in that capacity until July 12, 1864, when he was honorably discharged for promotion in another regiment. He was succeeded by William H. Taylor, also of Middleport, who retained the position until the muster out of his regiment.



Company B was composed of men from this and Kankakee counties, in about an equal proportion, and was mustered in with Captain Cephas Williams, of Kankakee, in command, but he was promoted major in about a year, and Lieut. Andrew Beckett, of Martinton, in this county, was commissioned captain, and continued in command until the close of the war and the muster out of the regiment.

Company D was, at its muster in, composed entirely of Iroquois county men, recruited from Onarga, Gilman, Ash Grove, Spring Creek, Milford and a few from Middleport, and during its term of service it was officered by Iroquois county men. About three-fifths of the recruits to the company in 1863-65 were also from Iroquois county. The company, during its whole term of service, was commanded by Captain Robert B. Lucas, of Onarga; D. H. Metzger, now of Abilene, Kansas, formerly a resident of, and for several years supervisor of Onarga township, and father of George T. Metzger, late county treasurer, was the first lieutenant of Company D for its whole term of service, and a faithful officer, too. The second lieutenants were George B. Fickle, of Onarga, and after his resignation, in February, 1863, Henry L. Frisbie, also of Onarga, was commissioned. Many of the rank and file of Company D are now hard-working mechanics and prosperous farmers, residing in the western part of the county.

Company F, Captain W. I. Bridges, of Belmont, commanding, was composed wholly of Iroquois county men, from Middleport, Belmont, Iroquois, Concord and Beaver townships mainly, and the recruits afterward sent to the company were nearly all from this county. Capt. Bridges resigned in February, 1863, and was succeeded by Lieut. George E. King, who had seen service in the old Twentieth as a lieutenant, resigned and enlisted in Company F, and was promoted to the captaincy from the first-sergeancy. Capt. King was captured at Guntown, Mississippi, and sent to Andersonville prison, thence to Macon, Georgia, and Charleston, and put under fire to prevent our troops firing on their forts, and was sent to Columbia, where he made his escape and reached the union lines, and on his return, at the close of the war, he was breveted lieutenant-colonel for meritorious services. Lieuts. Alfred Fletcher and John E. Leatherman, of Company F, are well known farmers of Iroquois and Middleport townships, respectively, and Lieut. Leatherman was captured at Guntown and a prisoner at Andersonville and other Southern prisons. John S. Darrough, Esq., of this city (Watseka), and Wesley Warren of Woodland, were sergeants of this company. T. S. Arnold, the well known druggist of Watseka, Adam Jacob, the tailor, and Capt. B. Braderick, of the Crescent City Guards, Company F, Ninth Regiment I. N. G., were all

members of this company, and we might name many more of our substantial citizens that used to march and fight in its ranks.

Company I was made up entirely of Iroquois county soldiers, and went into the field under command of Capt. George West, a well known and well-to-do farmer of Middleport township, who in consequence of ill health resigned May 25, 1863, and his second lieutenant, Aaron F. Kane, of Concord, became captain, and Sergeant William C. Shortridge, the well known shorthand reporter of this county, became second lieutenant. First Lieut. Anderson Tyler, then as now a resident of Iroquois village, filled the above position for nearly three years, and until mustered out with his company. Daniel Weston, the well known druggist of Wellington, was a sergeant in Company I of the One Hundred and Thirteenth.

In Company H, Iroquois county was represented by Lieut. Harrison Daniels, of Chebanse, the orderly, one duty sergeant, and fifteen privates.

Of the non-commissioned staff of the One Hundred and Thirteenth, Sergeant-Major Hezekiah Storms, was from Onarga, in this county, as was also Commissary-Sergeant Charles A. Newton. The quartermaster-sergeant, William H. Taylor, who was after promoted quartermaster, was from Middleport.

The records show that over eighty men from Iroquois county lost their lives while in line of duty as members of the One Hundred and Thirteenth, several of whom starved to death in Andersonville. This was about one-fifth of all the men that went out from Iroquois county in the ranks of the regiment; and fully as many more were seriously wounded or enfeebled for life by disease, many of whom have since died. Such is the record of this band of upward of 400 brave-hearted patriots. A mere statement of the facts is all the eulogium needed.

Forty recruits from Iroquois county, serving in the One Hundred and Thirteenth at the date of its muster out, June 20, 1865, were transferred to the One Hundred and Twentieth Regiment at that date, and afterward were mustered out with the latter organization at Memphis, Tennessee, September 10, 1865.

#### THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FOURTH REGIMENT ILLINOIS INFANTRY.

##### ONE-HUNDRED-DAYS MEN.

This regiment was organized at Camp Fry, Chicago, and mustered on the last day of May, 1864. Company B, Capt. N. B. Petts, was from Iroquois county, and was made up of young men principally

between fifteen and twenty-one years of age, many of whom belonged to the very best families, and left pleasant homes, and though the service was not so arduous as that required of the veterans at the front, yet it was of such a character as to so impair the constitutions of some of the patriotic youths as to bring them to early graves. These one-hundred-days men relieved veterans needed for active service. And they did good service in garrisoning important posts and guarding prisoners. The regiment, three days after its muster in, was sent to Columbus, Kentucky, where it did garrison duty until ordered to Paducah, and thence to Mayfield; at which last named post it erected a fort, and served to hold in check unruly spirits in that section by its mere presence. On its return to Chicago for muster out, Price was giving the unionists trouble in Missouri, and at the request of President Lincoln the One Hundred and Thirty-fourth went to Missouri, and did garrison duty at several points until ordered home for discharge; the regiment being mustered out October 25, 1864.

#### THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTIETH REGIMENT ILLINOIS INFANTRY.

The One Hundred and Fiftieth regiment, one-year troops, was organized at Camp Butler, Illinois, February 14, 1865, under Col. George W. Keener, and proceeded to Nashville, Tennessee, arriving February 21, and moved from there to Bridgeport, Alabama, where, up to March 25, 1865, it did post duty in the block-houses, extending from Bridgeport to Chattanooga, along the line of the Nashville & Chattanooga railroad. In March it was assigned to the brigade of the Prince Salm Salm, and March 25 was sent to Cleveland, Tennessee, where it did post duty until the first week in May, when it was stationed at Dalton, Georgia, and continued until July 8, when it moved to Atlanta, and there quitted the brigade and did garrison duty at Atlanta, and other towns near Atlanta, until mustered out January 16, 1866. Chauncey H. Sheldon, the adjutant, and the whole of Company D, Capt. H. B. Vennum commanding, was from this county. One man of the company died during the term of service. Richard Carroll, former supervisor of Sheldon, and a resident of Watseka now, was second lieutenant of D, and received a brevet commission in recognition of his efficiency as an officer.

The Thirty-seventh, Fifty-third, Fifty-fourth, Sixtieth, Sixty-sixth, Sixty-seventh, Sixty-ninth, Seventy-first, One Hundred and Twenty-fourth, One Hundred and Twenty-seventh and One Hundred and Forty-seventh Infantry regiments were also represented from Iroquois county by from one to six men.



## THE EIGHTH REGIMENT ILLINOIS CAVALRY.

This gallant regiment, under the command of Col. (afterward general) John F. Farnsworth, entered the United States service in September, 1861, and was active from the time it joined the Potomac army until the cessation of hostilities. Six companies of the regiment stubbornly contested "Stonewall" Jackson's advance at Mechanicsville for several hours. The Eighth took an honorable part in the battles of Gaines' Hill, Malvern Hill, Poolsville, South Mountain and Boonesboro, and also in the terrible struggle at Antietam. The regiment led the van of the army of the Potomac most of the time up to the battle of Fredericksburg, in which it also participated with credit. During the campaigns of 1863, the regiment was ever on the alert, and almost universally rendering, in the heavy battles and numerous pitched battles with the enemy's cavalry, a good account of itself. In 1863 the regiment was in twenty-six different engagements, including the bloody battle of Gettysburg, and sustained a loss of twenty-three killed, and over 150 wounded and missing. Up to the close of the war the regiment continued to render effective service and cover itself with glory, and when there was no longer a foeman left in the field with which to try the temper of their sabers, the dashing fellows of the Eighth Cavalry returned to their prairie homes to enjoy the peace their distinguished valor had helped to conquer. The regiment was mustered out at St. Louis, July 17, 1865. Old Iroquois was represented in the Eighth Cavalry by Capt. Joseph Clapp, Lieut. Charles W. Sprague and Private Henry Weaver, all of Loda township. Lieut. Sprague now resides in Artesia township, and is engaged in farming, and several years ago represented his township on the board of supervisors.

## THE NINTH REGIMENT ILLINOIS CAVALRY.

The Ninth Regiment of Illinois Cavalry, Col. Albert G. Brackett, commanding, was organized at Camp Douglas, October 26, 1861. The regiment was composed of twelve companies and divided into three battalions of four companies each, with a major and adjutant to each of the battalions.

The regiment left Chicago in February, 1862, for the seat of war, going first to Benton Barracks, St. Louis, Missouri, where it remained until the last of the month, when it moved to Pilot Knob in the Iron Mountain district, and from thence marched,—after considerable campaigning in Missouri,—to the command of Gen. Steele at Reeve Station, on the Big Black, afterward marching to Jacksonport, Arkansas,

where it engaged in a number of lively skirmishes in the country adjacent to the last named place. During the month of May, 1862, the Ninth Regiment, forming a part still of Gen. Steele's division of Gen. Curtis' army, engaged in a couple of brisk skirmishes. In one of these skirmishes, at Stewart's plantation, Col. Brackett and Capt. Knight (of Onarga), the commander of Company M, and Adj. Blackburn were wounded, and two men killed and thirty-three wounded; at Waddell's plantation the regiment lost twelve men wounded.

On June 26 the Ninth started on a march to Helena, where it arrived July 14, after a most fatiguing march, in which the command suffered greatly on account of the scarcity of rations, and the impossibility of procuring water to drink. Five men sank under the hardships of the march, and died at different points along the line of march, and many others died afterward, no doubt principally on account of the hardships endured on this march. The regiment remained at Helena doing outpost duty and skirmishing with the enemy until it joined Gen. Washburne's expedition into Mississippi; but previous to starting, two twelve-pounder mountain howitzers were assigned to the regiment, and were manned by a detail from the regiment under the command of Lieut. E. G. Butler, of the Ninth. Lieut. Butler, with his volunteer artillerymen and howitzers, at LaGrange successfully repulsed a charge of two regiments of Texan Rangers that essayed the capture of the gallant Butler and his little detachment; but after losing fifty men killed they concluded they didn't want the plucky lieutenant's "bull dogs," and withdrew. The loss to the unionists in the affair was twenty killed and wounded.

The Ninth participated with Washburne's forces in the engagements at Okolona and Coffeeville, Mississippi, November 6 and 7, 1862. In January, 1863, the regiment took a part in the expedition of Gen. Gorman, up White river in Arkansas, marching to Clarendon, on White river, and then marched back to Helena, arriving January 23, at which place it remained until April 7 following, when it moved to Memphis, Tennessee, and on the 12th of the month moved to Germantown, and was there assigned to the cavalry brigade of Col. McCrillis attached to the Sixteenth Army Corps, remaining in the brigade until the following fall, participating in the engagements at Coldwater and Grenada, Mississippi. In the latter part of August the regiment took post at LaGrange, and spent several weeks in skirmishing and reconnoitering, and again skirmished with the enemy at Coldwater, October 6, and also engaged in a keen fight at Salem, Mississippi, in which the rebels were forced out of their position after a very spirited resistance. At Wyatt, Mississippi, the regiment fought the enemy all day on October

13, forcing him to steal away from the battle-field that night as a measure of safety. After the fight at Wyatt the regiment returned to LaGrange, and remained there till the first week in November, when it moved to Corinth, but soon after returned to its old post at LaGrange, and moved from there to Colliersville, Tennessee, the last of November, where it was assigned to the Second Brigade of the Cavalry Division of the Sixteenth Army Corps, and December 3 and 4, under the command of the daring Grierson, the cavalry division engaged and whipped the rebels at Saulsbury and Moscow, Tennessee. The Ninth behaved gallantly at Moscow.

The Ninth, under Grierson, took a part in an expedition into Mississippi in the month of February, 1864, and fought and defeated the enemy at West Point on the 20th of the month, and was engaged at Okolona and Mount Ivy on the 21st and 23d. The Ninth went into camp at Germantown on the 24th. During this raid into Mississippi the Ninth did its full share of the hard marching and fighting, and at one time after the battle at West Point the Ninth, while acting as rear guard for the army, was beset by Forrest, and successfully hurled back his charging troopers.

The regiment, or a greater portion, reënlisted March 16, and received thirty days furlough, returning to the front toward the close of April, and rendezvousing at Memphis, Tennessee. A detachment consisting of 160 men were with Gen. Sturgis on the ill-starred Guntown expedition, and did effective service during the disastrous retreat as a rear guard, losing five killed, twenty-three wounded and twelve taken prisoners, while protecting the rear of Sturgis' army after the battle of Tishomingo creek, June 10, 1864. The regiment formed a part of Generals Grierson and A. J. Smith's expedition to Tupelo, Mississippi, and at Pontatoc, being in advance did heavy skirmishing with the enemy, and succeeded in driving him back at all points. The Ninth took an active part in the two-days battle at Tupelo July 14 and 15; also at Old Town Creek. The regiment accompanied Grierson during August in his Oxford, Mississippi, raid, engaging the enemy at Tallahatchie, Oxford and Hurricane creek, losing four men killed and a number wounded in the latter engagement. The regiment was absent on this raid thirty-two days, and returned to camp near Memphis, at White Station, September 4. Taking the field again as a part of Gen. Hatch's cavalry division September 30, marching to Clifton on the Tennessee river, and thence to Florence, through Waynesboro, and returning to Clifton, it watched the forward movement of Gen. Hood in his advance upon Nashville after the fall of Atlanta. At Shoal creek ford, on the Tennessee river, the Ninth fought the advance of



Hood's army and drove it back. While watching Hood at Shoal creek Gen. Hatch received orders to push the former's cavalry from the fords, and to develop the strength of the enemy in his front; and accordingly Hatch crossed and attacked Hood's cavalry and drove it back on his infantry, the Ninth Cavalry leading the attack. The rebels threw two divisions against the division of Gen. Hatch, and drove it back and across the creek. A part of the Ninth regiment having been sent on a detour to the right to strike the enemy's cavalry in the flank and rear by the driving back of Hatch's division, was cut off, and the battalion of the regiment thus entrapped cut its way through the rebel line at night, and recrossing the creek, rejoined its brigade the next day after the fight. After Hood crossed the Tennessee Gen. Hatch's division, to which the Ninth belonged, skirmished almost daily with his advance, and sought to hold him in check by so doing until Thomas could collect his scattered forces and insure the safety of Nashville and the ultimate defeat of Hood. At Campbellsville, November 24, the Ninth was engaged in a hotly contested fight with a part of Hood's forces that attempted to capture the wagon train of Gen. Schofield. The regiment fought overwhelming odds, but pluckily held its ground and drove the enemy back until the ammunition of the Ninth was exhausted, and nothing daunted, the bold troops of the Ninth, still reluctant to yield their ground, engaged in a hand-to-hand encounter, fighting with clubbed carbines. At Franklin the cavalry under Hatch held the roads leading to the fords, and prevented the enemy's cavalry from crossing the river and getting between the beleaguered and fighting army of Schofield and Stanley at Franklin and Nashville. As a part of Gen. Wilson's cavalry corps the Ninth regiment behaved handsomely in the assaults upon Hood's left at Nashville, December 15 and 16, which so successfully resulted in doubling back the whole confederate left upon its center on the Franklin Pike, near Brentwood Gap.

On the fifteenth Col. Coon's brigade, of which the Ninth formed a part, was ordered to move against a strong rebel redoubt mounting five cannon, and dismounting the gallant troopers, under Hatch's order to "go for the fort," charged up a high and very steep hill, and in three minutes from the time they started were in possession of the fort and 200 prisoners, and finding themselves under a terrible fire from another fort, about 500 yards to their right, the tired but eager cavalymen dashed against that in an irregular, straggling but determined body, and after a sharp fight possessed themselves of that also, and had they been five minutes earlier would have captured the rebel chief Gen. Hood. Only a few moments before Hatch and his daring troopers made the assault upon the works, Gen. Thomas had declared it impos-

sible for cavalry to "storm and capture a fort," but the boys taught the old hero that Western troopers could capture a rebel fort when they made up their minds to. After the rout of Hood, the Ninth and other cavalry regiments hung upon and harrassed Hood's rear, and had some lively little encounters and one particularly deserves mention. Gen. Knipe pressed Hood's train so close that the latter was obliged to make a stand to save his train from capture on the banks of the Little Harpeth creek, a few miles from Franklin, and Gen. Hatch moved forward to Knipe's support; the two divisions then charged grandly forward in the face of a galling fire, presenting a line a mile and a half from right to left, and crossing the creek soon closed with the enemy's infantry in a hand-to-hand struggle, and as many of the rebels were dressed in blue uniforms, our boys often mistook them for friends, and either fell into their hands or cut their way out. It was so difficult on account of the mist and smoke that Gen. Hatch at one time could not distinguish his own forces, and he sent an aide and his orderly to ride up to the forces and inquire who they were; his aide, Lient. Crawford, rode up to them and tapped a man on the shoulder and asked him, "What command?" "Nineteenth Tennessee, Bell's Brigade, rear guard," was the answer. He now knew they were rebels, and slipped out of their ranks and rode back to Hatch, who opened on them with cannon. At this point Capt. Foster, of the Second Iowa cavalry, galloped a little to the right to see if the flank of his brigade (Gen. Coon's) was safe, when he came face to face with the head of a rebel column, and was greeted with "surrender you d—d yankee." Foster swung his saber and shouted "don't you fire on this column," when, thinking him a rebel, they took down their arms, and the daring unionist put spurs to his horse and escaped to our lines in the midst of a shower of rebel bullets. The brigade was thus suddenly attacked, and at first repulsed, but Gen. Coon and his A. A. A. G. Capt. John H. Avery, of the Ninth Illinois, quickly rallied the men and moved forward with their horses on a walk, firing with steady aim as they advanced, until the rebel lines gave way and ran, leaving their artillery unsupported. The gallant Hatch, with but nine men, charged forward and captured the battery. The Ninth Illinois, under Col. Harper, then moved up to the battery, and then the rebels rallied and made several desperate attempts to retake it, but the boys of the old Ninth fired several deadly volleys into their ranks, and night coming on the rebels desisted and moved on, leaving three brass pieces in the hands of the cavalrymen. The Ninth was warmly complimented for its gallant and stubborn defense of the captured guns. The Ninth still harrassed Hood's rear, engaging him again several times before he crossed the Tennessee river.

After Hood had been driven out of Tennessee the regiment went to Huntsville, Alabama, and from there to Florence, in the same state, and thence to Eastport, Mississippi, and again returned soon after to Florence, and went into camp at Gravelly Springs, January 10, 1865, where it remained until February 9, when it again moved to Eastport and encamped there until June. During the latter part of the month it moved to Iuka, and from there to Decatur, Alabama, and afterward went to Montgomery and Selma, also to Gainesville, all in the state of Alabama. Finally, returning to Selma, it was mustered out of the service the last day of October, 1865, and soon after returned to Springfield, Illinois, for final payment and discharge.

Company M was composed almost wholly of Iroquois county men, and recruited principally from Onarga and the immediate neighborhood. Capt. Eliphalet R. Knight, of Onarga, commanded the company from November 30, 1861, to November 30, 1864, when his term expired, and Lieut. John H. Avery assumed command as captain, and continued in command to the close of the war. Capt. Knight, after the close of the war, removed to the state of Arkansas and died there recently. Capt. John H. Avery entered the service as fourth sergeant of Company M, and was successively promoted second and first lieutenant, and finally to the captaincy. He served, during the last year of the war, upon the staff of his brigade commander, Gen. Coon, in the capacity of acting assistant adjutant general. The captain was a dashing and efficient young officer, and won his promotion by good conduct in the field. After the close of the war Capt. Avery served a number of years as assistant assessor of internal revenue, with his office at Loda in this county. He occupied this position under both Gen. Carnahan and Judge Blades, while they were assessors for this district, and always proved himself a vigilant, careful and efficient officer. Capt. Avery is at present a resident of the state of Arkansas. First Lieut. Jacob C. Shear, who saw nearly three years' service in Company M, held the office of sheriff of this county from 1876 to 1878, and resides at present on his farm near Thawville, in this county. Sergeant John B. Lowe is at present editor of the Onarga "Review," and is also captain of the Onarga Rifles, Company E, Ninth Regiment Illinois National Guards. We might mention among others who acquitted themselves creditably, Serg.-Maj. Curtis, L. Knight, now of Arkansas, and B. F. Price, of Loda, who lost an arm, and a host of good solid citizens now residing in and around Onarga, whom we have not the space to mention individually. Eighteen of the Iroquois soldiers in this company lost their lives fighting for the union.



## THE TENTH REGIMENT ILLINOIS CAVALRY.

The Tenth regiment of cavalry was organized at Springfield, November 25, 1861, with Col. James Barrett commanding. Col. Barrett resigned in the spring of 1862, and Lieut.-Col. Dudley Wickersham, of Springfield, was commissioned its colonel. The regiment left for the front in April, 1862, and moved to Springfield, Missouri, and soon after was engaged in the battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas, and subsequently participated in the battles of Little Rock, Van Buren, Milliken's Bend and Vicksburg. Col. Wickersham for a considerable space of time was in command of a cavalry brigade of which the Tenth formed a part; meantime the regiment was commanded by Lieut.-Col. James Stuart, a dashing and brave officer. The regiment took a very conspicuous part in the engagements above mentioned, and also behaved nobly at Richmond, Louisiana, and Bayou Metre. Unfortunately we are not able to give an account of the numerous skirmishes and expeditions in which this grand body of men participated. They were not only a splendid cavalry force, but were well drilled in infantry tactics, and even fought on several occasions a part of them as artillerists. In the siege and assault upon Vicksburg they participated as dismounted cavalry, and did their whole duty. They were, as an organization, a fine body of men, and ready and willing in the face of all difficulties and dangers to perform their part and do it well. On their reënlistment Gov. Yates, in a speech to the regiment, among other things, said: "It is well known that cavalry regiments cannot always be together, but whether you have been placed on duty as a regiment, in companies, in battalions, or in squads, the Tenth cavalry was always where danger was nearest, and wherever duty called you. \* \* \* Now on your return I can say justly that I am proud of you. You have conducted yourselves as patriots and you have never disgraced the noble flag under which you have fought." The regiment operated mainly in Arkansas and Louisiana, and usually formed a part of Gen. Steele's command, and saw a great deal of disagreeable and arduous service.

After the reënlistment of the Tenth the regiment was consolidated to nine companies, and the Fifteenth Cavalry, consolidated to three companies, was consolidated with the Tenth, the consolidated regiment being called the Tenth. At a reunion of the Tenth Cavalry at Springfield, in September, 1878, Lieut.-Col. T. D. Vredenburg delivered an address, from which we cull the following concerning the history of the Tenth after its reënlistment:

"Here we had a full regiment of well-seasoned veterans, experienced, tried officers, and all hailed with delight the prospect of an early order

to more active fields, feeling assured, should the opportunity be presented, that we would not disgrace our calling. Cheer after cheer echoed through the camp when orders were received in February to move to the Mississippi river, and so anxious were all to be in the anticipated struggle at Mobile that the first detachment, once embarked on that majestic stream, failed to find land before reaching New Orleans, and only stopped there because all means of further transportation failed. The whole regiment finally congregated at Greenville, which was made headquarters, and the high hopes of seeing the last throes of the confederacy were doomed to miscarry, as only a few of our numbers reached Mobile, and that too late to take an active part in its capture. The only exciting times experienced in New Orleans was on the receipt of the news of the death of President Lincoln and the passage of the rebel ram Webb. In the first instance the prompt and energetic action of this regiment undoubtedly saved the city from a scene of bloodshed and confusion, and won from the general commanding a flattering compliment in general orders. In the second instance, the Webb, in her "cheeky" attempt to run the blockade, was recognized, as she passed Camp Paripett, by a member of the Tenth who had good reasons for remembering her; the authorities were apprised of the dangerous stranger's approach,—the timely information enabled the navy to accomplish her destruction, and the Tenth captured every soul on board save one.

"Early in the year 1865, as the tail of the confederacy continued to wag in the trans-Mississippi department, we were ordered up the river and put in an appearance at Shreveport, Marshall, Tyler and several other 'last ditches.'

"Then commenced that long, wearisome march from the Red to the Rio Grande. How different this march from any taken before. Formerly the advanced guard and nightly pickets were wont to be continually on the lookout for prowlers, scouts and ambuscades. Here the very swine knew the meaning of 'General Order No. 2,' and basked in perfect security almost under our horses' feet. This was the last feather, and all felt like laying aside a uniform which had lost its power to inspire awe,—else why should our favorite porker treat us with such contempt. Still, the ride had its pleasures. All enjoyed the varied scenery, the strange grottoes and mysterious rivers with a commencement in a mountain and terminus in the next plain; the immense herds of half wild cattle, lilliputian donkeys, etc. How captivating old time-stained San Antonio looked, hid behind its full tropical foliage, traversed by its crystal river, and full of evidences of age and durability. How pleasant in the cool of the evening to stroll through its wide

plazas, luxurious gardens and open churches to be jostled by black-eyed, half-veiled beauties, while the ear was saluted by a hundred voices of joy and laughter. From San Antonio several trips were made to the mountains north and west, some of them quite extended, ostensibly after Indians, but really to accustom the inhabitants to blue-coats, and reëstablish Uncle Sam's prestige. When this had been fully accomplished and there seemed nothing more for us to do, the order to prepare for muster-out arrived. Never was an order obeyed with more alacrity. By November 22 we were ready, mustered out, and started home for discharge. But a long stretch of land and water lay between us and that home. Footsore and weary the dismounted cavalryman dragged himself into Columbus after a tramp of 150 miles, thence by rail to Houston and Galveston.

"On a cold, raw afternoon in December, we 'clod-hoppers,' 'land-lubbers' and 'cow-boys' found ourselves, with about 500 other cattle, on board the Texas, gradually losing sight of land. Bright prospects of soon seeing friends and home danced through every breast, and joyously all eyes watched (to many) their first sunset at sea. Suddenly, with a crash suggestive of immediate destruction, the huge steamer lay drifting helplessly on the deep. An anchor was quickly gotten out, and an examination made, which developed nothing more serious than a broken wrist. Still without a new one the vessel was immovable save by wind and tide. Anxiously was the captain watched disappearing through the growing darkness, headed for Galveston, twenty miles away, in the only boat belonging to the steamer. He left with the expectation of returning by midnight with the needed repairs. As darkness closed in, the breeze, which had been fresh all day, increased to a gale, and it soon became evident that the captain would not return that night, as no boat could live in such weather. All hands stowed themselves away as best they could, expecting that daylight would improve the appearance of things. False hope. The morning only revealed to anxious eyes a surging mass of water and angry clouds. Then was the discovery made that the ship was unseaworthy and overloaded. The hold was crammed full of merchandise, principally cotton, the main deck crowded with cattle, genuine Texas long-horns, and the upper deck uncomfortably crowded with soldiers, about 700. As the vessel surged from side to side the soldiers clutched at any object to prevent being washed overboard, while numbers of cattle were crushed and smothered. Squeamish feelings possessed every stomach, salt, junk and hard-tack presented no attractions. The mind naturally reverted to things of the future, and religious sentiments were more prevalent than usual. Old tried soldiers were seen to throw



things other than their breakfast overboard. Yonder drifted past the ace of spades, and then the queen of hearts danced by in company with the jack of diamonds. At intervals a well-thumbed, yellow-backed copy of some obscene publication, passing to oblivion, would indicate at least a temporary improvement in its owner's morals. All day long and through the following night the weather was such as to prevent any one from coming to our assistance, save a plucky little revenue cutter sent from Galveston, but she only made the matter worse by knocking a great hole in herself and losing for us our best anchor, then without so much as 'I beg your pardon,' showed us her heels and 'put' for the nearest harbor.

"The night that followed was a time of great anxiety; little sleep was had by any. The next day, the wind subsiding considerably, another attempt on the part of the revenue cutter to tow us to Galveston was successfully accomplished just at night. Taking another vessel, an English screw propeller, as soon as possible, the run to New Orleans was accomplished in about thirty-six hours. The weather was now glorious, and the trip up the Mississippi on the grand old Missouri was delightful. When we had reached Cairo winter was upon us, and its rigors began to be felt seriously. Four years and over spent in the south had had its effect upon our systems. In anticipation of an early muster-out new clothes had not been drawn for a long time, overcoats and blankets, for lack of transportation, had been thrown away, and in an almost destitute condition we boarded the cattle cars kindly furnished for our accommodation by the Illinois Central railroad. Then followed thirty-six hours of the most miserable railroad riding ever enjoyed in this lovely state of ours; but all the miseries have an end; so had this ride: then who cared? Fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, wives and sweethearts were waiting to receive and welcome, while an inward consciousness of having done our whole duty filled each breast with pride and joy.

"One o'clock A.M., January 1, 1866, found us knee-deep in snow, pounding at the gates of Camp Butler for admittance, where, we had been informed, every preparation had been made for our accommodation. These accommodations on inspection proved to be deserted barracks—nothing more.

"All haste was made to be discharged, but red tape detained us until the 6th, when, with thankful hearts, we took our pay and Uncle Sam's honorable discharge, bade an affectionate adieu to old comrades, and hied away to the loved ones longing for our return."

The regiment was mustered out at San Antonio, Texas, November 22, 1865, and returned home soon thereafter, receiving pay and final

discharge at Springfield, Illinois. The greater portion of Company C was from Loda and vicinity, as was also Capt. Charles H. Jones, its commander.

Iroquois county was also represented by one or more men in the Fourth, Seventh, Twelfth and Fourteenth Regiments of Illinois Cavalry, all of whom did credit to the county and honor to themselves.

#### THE FIRST REGIMENT ILLINOIS ARTILLERY.

Battery D was among the very first troops organized, and was commanded by Capt. E. McAllister, of Plainfield, Illinois, and the battery is perhaps better known among soldiers as "McAllister's Battery." In the three-months service the battery formed one of the companies of the Tenth regiment, commanded by Col. Morgan, of Quincy, and was stationed at Cairo during its term of three months. The battery was reorganized for three years by Capt. McAllister, and made its first campaign under Gen. McClelland. At Fort Donelson its guns were the first ones that opened upon the enemy. It took a very prominent part in the battle of Shiloh, after which it was transferred to Gen. John A. Logan's Division of the Seventeenth Corps. About the time of its transfer to Logan's division, its commander, Capt. McAllister, in consequence of ill-health was forced to resign, and he was succeeded in command by Capt. H. A. Rogers, who continued to be its leader during the campaign of Gen. Grant down the Mississippi, and back again to Memphis, then to Milliken's Bend, and round to the rear of Vicksburg, also during the battles of Raymond and Champion's Hill, up to May 29, in the siege of Vicksburg, where the gallant captain was shot dead by a minie ball. Capt. E. H. Cooper, formerly of Springfield, on the death of Capt. Rogers, was promoted captain and commanded the battery during the rest of the siege of Vicksburg. In the winter of 1864 the battery reorganized as a veteran organization at Camp Fry, Chicago, and soon afterward it returned to the front, and, joining Sherman's army, it left Vicksburg in April, 1864, and proceeded to Georgia and took a prominent part in the march to, and capture of Atlanta. July 22, the day on which its corps commander, the lamented Gen. McPherson, was shot, the battery was handled with a skill, and behaved with a coolness and bravery unsurpassed. Capt. Cooper that day never left his horse, but was tireless and fearless during the entire battle, and showed himself worthy to be the commander of such a battery. After the fall of Atlanta the battery was ordered to Nashville, and formed a part of Gen. Thomas' army, and participated in the battle of Nashville. After the defeat of Hood the

battery was stationed at Clarksville, Tennessee, and remained there up to the date of its muster out. Capt. Cooper, in recognition of his bravery and abilities as an artillery officer, was promoted major of his regiment—the First Illinois Artillery; and Lieut. George P. Cunningham, of Middleport, Illinois, became captain of the battery. The battery was mustered out at Chicago, July 20, 1865. This county was represented by Lieut. Cunningham and eighteen men; among whom we might mention Sergeant Bushrod D. Washington as a capable non-commissioned officer, and Daniel Torbet, of Texas, in this county, as one of the most proficient gunners in the artillery service. Sergeant Washington, as a scout for Gen. Rousseau, rendered good service in helping to secure the capture of Buck Smith's guerrillas in Tennessee.

Battery E, more familiarly known as "Waterhouse's Battery," was organized at Chicago in October, 1861, and in the original company there were about twenty-five men, as near as we can learn from Leander Cadore, of Martinton, a former member of the company. These men are not credited to the county on the adjutant-general's rolls, but are well known to have been residents of Papineau, Martinton and Chebanse townships in this county, and several of the survivors still live there, and as will be seen from the roll of honor, a sergeant and four privates of the squad from this county died in the service. The writer has sought to get in correspondence with Col. Waterhouse and obtain material for a good historical sketch, but thus far has failed to acquire the desired information, and can only give an incomplete and imperfect sketch. As far as we have been able to learn the battery was engaged at Shiloh, and Capt. Waterhouse was there wounded. The battery took a part in the siege of Corinth, and soon afterward moved to Memphis, and from that time up to its muster out we are ignorant of its history, except that it took a part in the disastrous expedition to Guntown, under Gen. Sturgis. The battery was mustered out July 15, 1865. There were also in Battery I two men from Iroquois county.

#### THE SECOND REGIMENT ILLINOIS ARTILLERY.

In Battery L, Second regiment Illinois Artillery, commonly called "Bolton's Battery," there was quite a large number of men recruited from this and Ford counties; and these men, including the orderly sergeant and several other non-commissioned officers, were enlisted by Uriah Copp, Jr., Esq., of Loda, in this county, and in the first organization of the battery Copp was elected lieutenant and acted in that



capacity for several weeks at Camp Douglas and Benton Barracks, and in fact up to within a few days after the battle of Shiloh or Pittsburg Landing, when he discovered to his surprise, that the rolls under which he had been mustered in had been, as he alleges, "tampered" with, and his name obliterated therefrom, not only as a lieutenant but even as a member of the battery, and he returned to Illinois to have the matter adjusted and his commission issued, but found his enemies in the company had destroyed the proper rolls and substituted fraudulent ones, and filed the same as genuine in the adjutant-general's office of this state; and, to add insult to injury, had drawn his pay for recruiting the men he had enlisted and brought to the battery. After several vain attempts to get his rights, Copp gave up his military aspirations and resumed his duties as a citizen of Loda, but Sergeant Hammond and the other men that he had enlisted continued in the battery, and we herewith present a brief sketch of the same: The battery left Chicago in March, 1862, soon after organization, and went to Benton Barracks, Missouri. From there it proceeded by steamer to Pittsburg Landing, and took the field at Shiloh, April 9, 1862, being assigned to Gen. Hurlbut's division. It participated in the siege of Corinth, and after its evacuation proceeded with Gen. Sherman's command to Memphis, Tennessee, where it remained in camp until August. It was engaged at Nocomo Creek in October following, and was selected to make the attack upon the enemy in the battle of the Hatchie, by Maj.-Gen. S. A. Hurlbut. At this battle the battery took a stand of rebel colors that were given to the city of Chicago. The battery marched with Grant, in Logan's division, on his campaign through Mississippi, by way of the Tallahatchie and Water valley, in December, 1862. After the capture of Holly Springs and destruction of federal supplies, Battery L returned to Memphis, and afterward accompanied Gen. Grant to Lake Providence, Louisiana, and Milliken's Bend. It crossed the Mississippi and engaged in the Vicksburg campaign, being employed in siege operations forty-seven days. After the fall of Vicksburg it again commenced the campaign in Louisiana under Brigadier-Gen. Leggett, and marched after the rebel general, McCullough, to Monroe, from where it returned to Vicksburg. Here the old guns being worn out Maj.-Gen. McPherson supplied it with new armament, and everything new and complete. In June, 1864, it fought under McArthur at Benton and Deasonville, and in July under Maj.-Gen. Slocum, at Clinton and Jackson, Mississippi, which ended its active operations in the field. From that time until its muster out, about August 1, 1865, it was assigned to the defenses of Vicksburg. It was at last mentioned date sent to Chicago for final payment and discharge.

At the date of leaving the service it mustered 130 men out of over 450 who had been on its rolls from first to last.

Battery A of this regiment was also furnished with four recruits from Ash Grove township, all of whom received honorable discharge.

## DEAD HEROES.

"We will plant it here, boys, and rally the old Twenty-fifth around it, and here we will die."

THOMAS D. WILLIAMS was born at Ormskirk, in Lancashire, England, on March 8, 1826. But little is known of his parents further than that they were respectable laboring people. Nothing is known of the boyhood of our subject, or how he became possessed of a fair education, which he appears to have acquired while yet a boy. At fourteen, like many an English lad of a free spirit and intrepid nature, young Williams determined to visit America, the famed land of freedom and prosperity. Accordingly he crossed the Atlantic to the shores of the New World, whether as a runaway sailor lad, or with the permission of his parents, we are not able to say; but are tolerably reliably informed that young Williams was early thrown upon his own resources, and for aught we have been able to learn of his early life and career, one or both parents may have been dead at the time he made his first voyage to this country. After spending some months in this country Williams returned to his old home, but not content there he again returned to the United States in 1845, and found employment in the mining regions of Pennsylvania as a clerk in one of the offices, but at what precise point in the mining regions we are unable to say.

When the war with Mexico began, young Williams accompanied some of his chums, who had enlisted, to Philadelphia to see them off for the war, and while there he became seized with a desire to try the life of a soldier, and he also volunteered, enlisting in the Rocket and Howitzer Battery, commanded by Captain (afterward general) Reno, and in a little time won promotion to the position of a non-commissioned officer, and behaving himself in such a manner as to call from Lieut. Gorgas, who was commanding the battery at his muster out, the following recommendation:

"The bearer, Thomas D. Williams, has served during the recent war with Mexico in the Rocket and Howitzer Battery. In the course of the campaign he won for himself the grade of a non-commissioned officer. As he possesses all the qualifications requisite for a

good clerk, I take pleasure in recommending him on account of his industry and attention to duty.

I. GORGAS,

"First Lieut. of Ordnance, late commanding Rocket and Howitzer Battery of Ordnance.

"WATERVLIET ARSENAL, Sept. 11, 1848."

Armed with this flattering indorsement from his commander, Williams started to New York city, intending to apply for a position in a large mercantile concern, but changed his mind, and September 15, 1848, enlisted in the regular army as a sergeant in Company A of the United States Engineer Corps, and for five years did faithful duty as a sergeant of engineers, so winning the esteem of Capt. George B. McClellan (afterward general), at one time his commander, and also of Capt. P. T. Beauregard, a prominent general of the confederates, as to be regarded by both, and particularly by McClellan, as a warm personal friend. At the conclusion of his five-years service Sergt. Williams received an honorable discharge, with the following indorsement on it as to character :

"Sergt. Thomas D. Williams served in the ordnance company during the campaign in Mexico, in the army commanded by Maj.-Gen. Scott. As an engineer soldier he is considered intelligent and quick in the performance of his duties, and a good soldier. The commandant of the engineer company (A) at West Point, New York, under whom Sergt. Williams served at the time of reporting to me for duty on the Mexican frontier, concurs in the above character of Sergt. Williams.

RICH'D DELAFIELD,

"Major of Engineers.

"FORT BROWN, Texas, Sept. 17, 1853."

Sergt. Williams reënlisted at Fort Brown, Texas, in September, 1853, and continued in service as sergeant of engineers up to September, 1855, when he was mustered out at his own request, made to the secretary of war,—he having married, and decided to adopt some civil profession, and his certificate of honorable discharge, under hand of Maj. Barnard, as to his character, is summed up in the simple but expressive word "excellent."

At the date of his final discharge from the service, Sergt. Williams was stationed at West Point, and was presented, with a handsome non-commissioned officer's dress-sword, on the scabbard of which is engraved: "Presented to T. D. Williams by his comrades of the U. S. Corps of Engineer Soldiers, West Point, N. Y., Nov. 1, 1855,"—which testimonial from his comrades shows that he was as highly appreciated by the rank and file as by his officers.

Sergt. Williams, on September 27, 1854, was united in mar-



riage with Miss Mary A. Gleason, of Troy, New York, at the city of Troy, and his young bride went with him to West Point, and staid there nearly a year, when she prevailed on him to ask for a discharge from the service. After he left the army, Williams and his young wife went to Camden, Alabama, where he became instructor of mathematics in the Wilcox Military Institute. He filled this position one year satisfactorily; and then, at the instance of several wealthy friends, who were contemplating taking the contract from the government to improve Corpus Christi bay by dredging, he went to the bay, and, as an engineer, examined into the feasibility of the work and its probable profitableness to the contractor undertaking it, and he reported so unfavorably upon the project that his friends at once abandoned their intention to bid; and the same parties being owners of vast tracts of wild land in Texas, proposed to Williams to stock a large ranche for him, but Mrs. Williams refused to quit civilized haunts and take up a home in the Wilderness, and that project was also abandoned. Meeting soon after this in New Orleans city his old West Point associate and friend, Gen. Beauregard, then a captain of engineers in the regular army, Williams applied to him for something that he could do as a civilian in the United States service, and was sent to Fort St. Phillip, at or near the mouth of the Mississippi river, to aid in its repair, as assistant superintendent of the work, if we are not mistaken. While at Fort St. Phillip, Williams was taken severely ill, and, under the advice of his physician, left there in the early fall of 1857 for Chicago. At Chicago, soon after his arrival, Williams fell in with his old captain of engineers, George B. McClellan, then vice-president of the Illinois Central railroad, who at once offered Williams employment, and sent him to Chebanse station as agent for the company in the fall of 1857.

Pleased with our broad, fertile prairies and the promising young village of Chebanse, Williams bought property there and erected a home, and became one of the early and prominent business men of the village, transacting easily and efficiently his duties as the company's agent, and carrying on a grain and stock-shipping business besides; and was thus employed when the old flag he had served eleven years under was fired on at Sumter. Surrounded by the comforts of home, and enjoying the society of a young wife and his babes; and having served his adopted country eleven long years, two of them in active service with Gen. Scott, in Mexico, in which he had participated in every battle in the campaign, from Vera Cruz to the capture of the Mexican capital, except one; and having been wounded at

the battle of Contreras, our hero felt impelled to hold in subjugation his strong desire to again unsheath his sword in defense of the old flag he had followed so long and so well over so many bloody fields, on account of his wife and young children. But when the old flag he so fondly cherished went down in the dust, smoke and defeat at Bull Run, it roused this "man of war," and he set about recruiting men for the regiment then being raised by Col. Coler, of Champaign, and on its organization was very properly placed in command of Company G, Twenty-fifth regiment, and continued in command until the resignation of Col. Coler; when, at the urgent request of some of the best offi-



"We will plant it here, boys, and rally the old Twenty-fifth around it, and here we will die."

cers in the regiment, who had discovered that he was the true, brave and competent man to lead them, he was commissioned colonel by Gov. Yates a short time before the battle of Stone River. And, as is usual, when the field officers are ignored and a ranking captain promoted to the command of the regiment, offense was given to those who were "jumped"; and consequently the new colonel went into the struggle that cost him his life without the presence or assistance of either the lieutenant-colonel or major.

Col. Williams had given proof of his ability as a company commander at Pea Ridge and Iuka, and the most of his men recognized and respected his soldierly qualities. Up to the time that he met his death, the regiment had been ably handled by its new colonel, and he was winning the love and confidence of every true soldier in

his command by his readiness, tact and courage. When Woodruff's brigade was left isolated and alone on the field, by the falling back of troops on the right and left during the fiercest onset of Bragg's army on December 31, 1862, at Stone River, the Twenty-fifth regiment was flanked by the enemy, and Col. Williams found it necessary to "change front," and in doing so his men became the least bit demoralized; and fearing that they might fall back in a panic, as other regiments had done, on the color-bearer being shot down Col. Williams seized the colors himself, and advancing in front of the center of his regiment, while preparing to plant the colors, said: "WE WILL PLANT IT HERE, BOYS, AND RALLY THE OLD TWENTY-FIFTH AROUND IT, AND HERE WE WILL DIE." At this point he was shot through the left breast, and reeled backward, still holding the colors. He was taken to the field hospital, and lingered a number of hours, and died, saying to Surgeon Brown: "I have done my duty."

Col. Williams, on the day preceding the one on which he received his death-wound, was severely wounded by a piece of shell tearing a ghastly wound in the fleshy part of his thigh, but binding his handkerchief over it, he continued on the field. Men less determined and of less nerve would have left the field, and felt that with such a wound they were amply justified in so doing. In his report of the battle his brigade commander referred to the death of Col. Williams in the following words: "Amid the glorious results of a battle won, it gives me pain to record the names of the gallant men who offered up their lives on the altar of their country. But we must drop the tear of sorrow over their resting places, and offer our heartfelt sympathies to their relatives and friends, trusting that God will care for them and soothe their afflictions. And while we remember the noble dead, let us pay a tribute of respect to the gallant Col. T. D. Williams, Twenty-fifth Illinois regiment, who died in the performance of his duty. He fell with the regimental colors in his hands, exclaiming: 'We will plant it here, boys, and rally the old Twenty-fifth around it, and here we will die.' Such conduct is above all praise, and words can paint no eulogiums worthy of the subject."

Col. Williams and two of his children were buried at Oakwood Cemetery, Troy, New York, by his wife. And she has marked the tomb of her hero by a beautiful monument. The other child born to them is buried at Camden, Alabama, and only the wife of the gallant soldier still lives. Mrs. Mary A. Williams has a cosy home at Chebanse, bearing within its walls many evidences of the culture and



refinement of its owner, and with tender hands she has placed on the walls of her parlor pictures of her heroic husband, and also of the loved little ones that, with their brave, noble-hearted father, await her coming on the golden shores of that "bright and better land." To Williams Post, No. 25, Grand Army of the Republic, located at Watseka, Mrs. Williams has presented a magnificent silk banner suitably inscribed.

From a newspaper published in Troy, New York, under date of January 25, 1863, we clip the following, in reference to the burial of Col. Williams. His remains were sent from the battlefield to Chebanse, and there taken in charge by his bereaved wife and taken to Troy, and buried as here described:

"Yesterday our city was the scene of one of those sad reminders of the stern realities of war, from which, thus far in the contest, Troy has been comparatively free. The spectacle presented yesterday, at the funeral of the brave Col. Williams, was one calculated to arouse the deepest feeling,—in fact, we know no more sad public demonstration than the pageant of a military funeral. The led horse of the fallen warrior, the country's flag drooping on the coffin, the mournful minor music, and the sword he has wielded in many a good fight, but for which he has no longer any use,—all conspire to make it an impressive occasion. The remains arrived in the city on Saturday, and were laid in state at the armory of the Citizens' Corps, until yesterday noon, when the funeral procession moved thence to Oakwood Cemetery, Brig.-Gen. Allen, with a portion of his staff, Capt. McConihe and Capt. W. F. Calder, acting as pall-bearers. A detachment of twenty-five regulars, from the Watervliet Arsenal, under command of the veteran Sergt. Smith, acted as mourners. The escort consisted of the artillery, the German Rifle Company, the Republican, Jackson, Wool and Columbian Guards,—the whole being under the command of Lieut.-Col. Lawton. Sullivan's band furnished the music. At the grave the usual salute was fired, and every mark of respect was paid to the warrior who had 'gone to his long home.' "

Iroquois county may well feel a pride in the fact that from all the brave, true men whom she sent from her broad prairies to do battle for the "old flag," no nobler martyr shed his blood than the gallant Col. Williams, of the old Twenty-fifth regiment.

Col. Williams was a magnificent specimen of manhood, standing six feet one and a half inches in his stocking feet, and being well proportioned. In uniform he looked the soldier he proved himself to be. His face wore a thoughtful look, and was kindly, except

when it showed the seal of determination. Though pleasant and sociable generally, he was rather modest and retiring in disposition. Had he lived to the close of the war, Iroquois county would doubtless have been the home of one union general, for the bravery and abilities of the soldierly Col. Williams would have been recognized.

It is known to be a fact that, after the battle of Iuka, Capt. Williams could have had a general's commission in the confederate forces, had he seen fit to turn his back on the flag he loved so well. Like the noble Gen. George H. Thomas, who also knew and respected Williams as an excellent soldier in Mexico and at West Point, whose bones now repose in Oakwood Cemetery, only a few feet from those of Col. Williams, he had the courage to say No to comrades and friends he loved, who, in their madness, had dared assail the "old flag" and entreat him to do the same ungrateful act. All honor to the brave and noble soldier who laid down his life in defense of his adopted country, and may its chivalric sons emulate his courage and cherish his memory.

JAMES H. JAQUITH was born near Buckfield, Maine, on June 18, 1837. He resided in his native state until 1855, when he set his face westward, and settled in Lake county, near Waukegan, Illinois, and at once cast about for a means of obtaining a livelihood, and finally decided to learn the carpenter's trade, working at that trade in Lake county for several years until he became a competent and skillful mechanic. A year or two before the outbreak of the rebellion Jaquith removed to Chebanse, and worked at his trade there and at Kankakee city. Soon after the fall of Sumter, young Jaquith enlisted in Company G of the Twentieth Regiment of Infantry, and was made third corporal, and afterward promoted sergeant, and he was an active, faithful soldier, until struck down by a rebel bullet at Shiloh with a terrible wound. He was shot through the right leg, six inches above the knee, and lay four days upon the field with his wound undressed and uncared for. In a letter to his brother he speaks of these four days of suffering in the following language: ". . . It was trying to body and soul. . . . On the fourth day I was conveyed to a boat and laid on a tick of straw, the softest bed I had laid my bones on for eighteen months; my bed had usually consisted of a knapsack for a pillow, and a pile of sticks or stones for a bed." And upon this bed of straw the gallant sergeant, who had done manful duty at Donelson and escaped unscathed, and felt himself a veteran, waited patiently for his ugly and painful wound to heal; but it was slow in healing, and he was declared to be too badly hurt for further service to his country, and

September 30, 1862, the maimed soldier was honorably discharged, and returned to Kankakee city, and in a little time resumed work at his trade. During the year 1863, Jaquith married, at Kankakee city, Miss Irene E. Merrill, a resident then of Lake county, and removing to Chebanse with his young wife began housekeeping there, and continued to reside at Chebanse until the spring of 1865, when responding to the last call for volunteers for one year, Sergt. Jaquith recruited and led to the field as its captain, Company H of the Fifty-eighth regiment, and while stationed at Montgomery, Alabama, he died in hospital of chronic dysentery, October 15, 1865, sadly mourned by his company, a loving young wife and little daughter. His wife and daughter reside at Chebanse. Captain Jaquith is described as being a tall, dark complexioned, fine looking young man, loved and respected as a soldier and as a man.

REV. PETER I. WILLIAMS, an itinerant preacher of the M. E. church, was assigned to Milford circuit in 1861, and little was known then or now by his parishioners of the antecedents of their excellent pastor. He was an earnest, active, christian gentleman, and soon won the hearts of his little flock at the then country town of Milford. He busied himself in getting the present church edifice built, which, by the way, was a pretentious building in those days. He also preached the dedicatory sermon, and was regarded as an eloquent and earnest minister of the gospel,—a man wonderfully zealous and earnest in his religious faith. He was a man of some thirty years of age, and an earnest advocate and supporter of the union cause; and when Company E was being recruited for the Seventy-sixth regiment, Rev. Peter I. Williams enlisted and used his influence in securing enlistments to the company; and abandoning the comforts of home, a young wife, and a congregation of Methodist people that loved him as their pastor, he went to the front to help put down the unholy rebellion, and his comrades all bear testimony to his excellent character and behavior in camp, on the march, and in battle, as an earnest, God-fearing, union-loving, christian soldier. While on duty with a squad of eight of his men, in a rifle pit on the skirmish-line, close to the fortifications of Vicksburg, Lient. Williams was mortally wounded by a ball from the rifle of a sharpshooter in the rebel works, the same bullet also wounding private George Devore, one of his men, in the rifle pit with him at the time. This brave christian soldier was borne to the hospital of his command, but lingered only a few hours, and June 21, 1863, mourned by comrades, who had learned to love him, this brave, good man yielded up his life upon the altar of his country,—another victim to the fury of the



slaveholders' unholy and wicked war. In the death of Lieut. Williams, Iroquois county lost one of its purest patriots, truest soldiers, and most worthy citizens; the church lost a young, ardent, eloquent, warm-hearted and promising teacher and preacher. We have vainly sought to learn something of the early life of this earnest christian and valiant soldier, who laid down a life full of golden promises, as an officer of one of the gallant companies of volunteers, sent into the field by this county, but have only been able to learn that he came to this county from the west part of the state, and was probably a native of this state. The most reckless and roughest boys of his company respected Lieut. Williams for his piety, bravery and kindness of heart; and though no stone may mark his grave, in the hearts of those men who faced death and danger with him, as their leader and friend, his name is sacredly enshrined, and to the end of their days will they venerate their gallant fallen comrade, as the true soldier, christian and patriot.

LIEUT. CHARLES TAYLOR, one of the slain heroes of this county, came to Middleport a year or two before the beginning of the late war, and up to the time of his enlistment in the old Twentieth he followed his trade, that of a carpenter and joiner. His friends all bear testimony as to his being a skillful mechanic, and a young man of fine intellect and generous impulses, but unhappily addicted to the vice of intemperance. And like the noble "war governor" of our state, his pernicious habit which had grown upon him while a resident of Philadelphia, did much to hide the noble qualities of head and heart possessed by this honest, frank and adventurous young man. When Sumter was fired upon, young Taylor was among the very first, if not the *first*, to enlist in the company that was quickly formed at Middleport, immediately on receipt of the President's call for volunteers, and was very active in securing the enlistment of others. Lieut. Taylor's soldierly conduct and generous nature won for him favor among his comrades of Company I, of the Twentieth regiment, and many of his friends at home (that is, his adopted home), admiring the bright, generous and courageous young fellow, watched his conduct in the field with some little pride, as "Charlie" gave new proofs of his gallantry. At Britton's Lane, a battle in which the Twentieth and Thirtieth Illinois regiments were attacked by an overwhelming force of rebels, and yet, by dauntless bravery and pure western pluck, held their ground and gave the enemy a good sound whipping, despite the disparity of numbers. Lieut. Taylor was in the thickest of the battle, and his saber scabbard was struck close to the hilt, and scabbard and saber so battered

and twisted by the shot as to render it impossible to draw the blade from the scabbard. The lieutenant sent it as a relic of the fight to his friend, Hon. C. Secrest, of this city, who still retains it. After participating in numerous battles, Lieut. Taylor was finally struck down, after over three years' continuous exposure to dangers seen and unseen in the ranks of his gallant regiment, by a rebel bullet in the ankle, during the hottest of the fierce struggle, on the banks of Peach Tree Creek, a few miles from Atlanta. He was helped to the rear by his friend and comrade, John S. Vennum, who staid with him until he died from the effects of his wound, which he received June 21, 1864. His death occurred on the 24th, and he was buried by Vennum on the banks of Peach Tree Creek, where he sleeps the sleep of the gallant and true soldier.

Among the knightly young heroes who fell on the crimsoned field of Shiloh, no nobler youth died the death of a brave and true defender of the union than Corporal PHILLO P. VENNUM, of Company I, Twentieth regiment. He was a young man of about twenty-two years, when the rebel bullet shattered the precious casket, and was a fine-appearing and promising young man; and had he lived, no doubt his family and the country would have been honored by him. He was the son of C. C. Vennum, deceased, one of the pioneers of Milford township, and for many years its supervisor and most honored and trusted citizen, and the brother of Hon. Thomas Vennum and Capt. J. F. Vennum. Early in the first day's battle, young Vennum was struck by two rebel bullets, one of which cut off the forefinger of the right hand, and the other tore through the muscle of the same arm, near the shoulder, and penetrating the right side of the fearless young warrior, brought his tall form to the earth; and a few moments after the trampling horde of traitors passed over him in pursuit of his retreating regiment, that, unable to stand the simoon of destruction, had been forced from that part of the field. His body was found, and buried by his cousin, John S. Vennum, and his comrade, Joseph Leeds. Many of his comrades will, doubtless, feel a pang of grief seize the heart, even at this late day, as they read this brief tribute to a noble soldier who died with his face to the foe.

SERGEANT CHARLES BARD, of Chebanse, and one of the first settlers of that neighborhood, after farming several years sold his farm, moved into Chebanse and went to merchandising. He enlisted in Company H, Fifty-eighth regiment, under Capt. J. H. Jaquith. Bard was made second sergeant of his company, and did his duty faithfully until seized with chronic dysentery at Montgomery, Alabama, where he died September 23, 1865. His widow and daughter reside at Chebanse.

## ROLL OF HONOR OF IROQUOIS COUNTY.

Soldiers from this county that were killed in battle or died in the service in the war of 1861-5:

NAME.	RESIDENCE.	MUSTERED IN.	ORGANIZATION.	KILLED OR DIED.
Ancel B. Cady....	Middleport	Oct. 21, 1861..	Bat. D, 1st Art.	D. at Fort Donelson, Feb. 16, 1862.
Sydney Henderson	Middleport	Sept. 14, 1861.	Bat. D, 1st Art.	D. at Cairo, Ill., Nov. 25, 1861.
Wm. J. Moore.....	Middleport	Dec. 18, 1863.	Bat. E, 1st Art.	D. at Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 3, 1865.
Serg. Solon White.	Papineau ..	Sept. 27, 1861.	Bat. E, 1st Art.	D. at Chebanse, Ill., Oct. 23, 1861.
William Bondalow.	Papineau ..	Nov. 21, 1861.	Bat. E, 1st Art.	D. at Memphis, Tenn., Sept. 12, 1863.
Alexander Gordon.	Papineau ..	.....	Bat. E, 1st Art.	D. at Memphis, Tenn., Oct. 1, 1862.
Wm. R. Shoufler ..	Milford ..	Nov. 12, 1861.	Bat. E, 1st Art.	D. at Memphis, Tenn., Sept. 9, 1863.
Frank B. Eno.....	Loda .....	Feb. 3, 1862.	Bat. L, 2d Art.	D. on steamer Champion, May 6, 1862.
Serg. G. W. Tolbert	Onarga .....	Sept. 10, 1861.	Co. M, 9th Cav.	D. at Reeve's Sta., Mo., Mar. 31, 1862.
Corp. J. W. Follett	Onarga .....	Sept. 10, 1861.	Co. M, 9th Cav.	D. at Chicago, Feb. 8, 1862.
Corp. A. W. Wilson	Onarga .....	Sept. 10, 1861.	Co. M, 9th Cav.	D. nr Jacksonport, Ark., June 26, 1862.
Baruey Burns.....	Onarga .....	Sept. 10, 1861.	Co. M, 9th Cav.	D. at Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 12, 1864.
Riley Chenneworth	Onarga .....	Sept. 10, 1861.	Co. M, 9th Cav.	D. at Reeve's Sta., Mo., Mar. 22, 1862.
Lucian P. Meudal..	Onarga .....	Sept. 10, 1861.	Co. M, 9th Cav.	D. at St. Louis, Oct. 13, 1864.
David H. Putnam..	Onarga .....	Sept. 10, 1861.	Co. M, 9th Cav.	D. at Memphis, April 10, 1864.
Nelson J. Robinson	Onarga .....	Nov. 1, 1861..	Co. M, 9th Cav.	Drowned in Black river, June 26, 1862.
Andrew J. Sellers ..	Onarga .....	Sept. 10, 1861.	Co. M, 9th Cav.	Drowned in Black river, June 1, 1862.
William Selvey.....	Onarga .....	Sept. 10, 1861.	Co. M, 9th Cav.	D. at Little Black river, May 2, 1862.
George J. Van Ness	Onarga .....	Sept. 10, 1861.	Co. M, 9th Cav.	D. at Keokuk, Iowa, Oct. 8, 1862.
Serg. N. Dillon.....	Onarga .....	Jan. 1, 1864 ..	Co. M, 9th Cav.	D. at Columbia, Tenn., Nov. 24, 1864.
Serg. L. Thayer.....	Onarga .....	Aug. 1, 1862..	Co. M, 9th Cav.	D. at Memphis, Tenn., Oct. 1, 1862.
Henry Alexander ..	Onarga .....	Dec. 1, 1861 ..	Co. M, 9th Cav.	D. at Onarga, March 8, 1862.
George H. Cooper ..	Onarga .....	Aug. 1, 1862..	Co. M, 9th Cav.	K. at Oxford, Miss., August 13, 1864.
William Daniels....	Onarga .....	Feb. 1, 1862 ..	Co. M, 9th Cav.	D. at St. Louis.
John Robinson.....	Onarga .....	Aug. 1, 1862..	Co. M, 9th Cav.	K. nr Tishomingo creek, June 11, 1864.
Wm. N. Skeels.....	Onarga .....	Jan. 1, 1863 ..	Co. M, 9th Cav.	D. at Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 24, 1864.
Corp. P. Tierney ..	Loda .....	Sept. 15, 1861.	Co. C, 10th Cav.	D.
Saddler, W. Wilson	Loda .....	Sept. 15, 1861.	Co. C, 10th Cav.	D.
Jacob Anderson ..	Loda .....	Sept. 15, 1861.	Co. C, 10th Cav.	D.
Daniel Chidsey.....	Loda .....	Sept. 15, 1861.	Co. C, 10th Cav.	D. at Memphis, Oct. 15, 1864.
Wm. J. Hamlin.....	Loda .....	Sept. 15, 1861.	Co. C, 10th Cav.	D.
Simeon Harris.....	Loda .....	Sept. 16, 1861.	Co. C, 10th Cav.	K. in battle.
John Haley.....	Loda .....	Sept. 15, 1861.	Co. C, 10th Cav.	D. at Little Rock, Ark., Sept. 18, 1863.
Samuel McGowan....	Loda .....	Sept. 15, 1861.	Co. C, 10th Cav.	D. at Huntsville, Ark., June 3, 1864.
Joseph McDonald ..	Loda .....	Sept. 15, 1861.	Co. C, 10th Cav.	D. at Loda, Ill., Dec. 4, 1863.
Francis Post.....	Loda .....	Sept. 15, 1861.	Co. C, 10th Cav.	D. at Brownsville, Ark., Sept. 13, 1863.
Samuel Sanders.....	Loda .....	Sept. 15, 1861.	Co. C, 10th Cav.	K. in battle.
Gilbert D. Sperry..	Loda .....	Sept. 15, 1861.	Co. C, 10th Cav.	D.
Edward Webster ..	Loda .....	Sept. 10, 1861.	Co. C, 10th Cav.	D.
Charles Edings.....	.....	Jan. 12, —	Co. C, 10th Cav.	D. at Little Rock, Ark., Aug. 3, 1864.
Tim Broutt.....	L'Erable ..	Dec. 19, 1861.	Co. E, 12th Cav.	D. at St. Louis, March 26, 1864.
Thomas T. P. Cady ..	Ash Grove.	Sept. 1, 1861..	Co. C, 12th Inf.	D. Nov. 13, 1862.
Wm. H. Wilkinson ..	Chebanse..	June 13, 1861.	Co. G, 20th Inf.	D. at Mound City, Dec. 9, 1861.
2d Lieut. C. Taylor.	Middleport	March 1, 1862.	Co. I, 20th Inf.	D. July 29, 1864.
Corp. George Friel	Middleport	June 13, 1861.	Co. I, 20th Inf.	K. at Champion Hills, May 16, 1863.
Corp. F. P. Vennum	Iroquois Co	June 13, 1861.	Co. I, 20th Inf.	K. at Shiloh, April 6, 1862.
Corp. A. Reynolds..	Iroquois Co	June 13, 1861.	Co. I, 20th Inf.	K. at Shiloh, April 6, 1862.
Joseph Brayton.....	Ashkum ..	June 13, 1861.	Co. I, 20th Inf.	D. at Mound City, Nov. 8, 1861.
Jas. Brandenburg..	Middleport	June 13, 1861.	Co. I, 20th Inf.	K. at Raymond, Miss., May 12, 1863.
John W. Bird.....	Middleport	June 13, 1861.	Co. I, 20th Inf.	D. at Keokuk, Iowa, July 5, 1862.
Laroy T. Thomas..	Iroquois Co	June 13, 1861.	Co. I, 20th Inf.	K. at Raymond, Miss., May 12, 1863.
Jas. H. Thompson..	Gilman ..	June 13, 1861.	Co. I, 20th Inf.	D. at Vicksburg, Miss., Dec. —, 1863.
Oliver Hudson.....	Middleport	.....	Co. I, 20th Inf.	K. at Goldsboro, N. C., Dec. 16, 1864.
William A. Jewell ..	Middleport	.....	Co. I, 20th Inf.	K. at Fayetteville, N. C., Mar. 11, 1865.
Benj. F. Shockley ..	Middleport	.....	Co. I, 20th Inf.	K. near Goldsboro, N. C., Jan. 5, 1865.
James Britton.....	Ashkum ..	June 15, 1863.	Co. I, 20th Inf.	K. at Edwards Sta., Miss., May 6, 1862.
William J. Davis ..	Milford ..	April 22, 1861.	Co. I, 20th Inf.	D. at Milford, Ill., March 10, 1863.
Henry Leek.....	Middleport	Nov. 1, 1862..	Co. I, 20th Inf.	K. in action, July 22, 1864.
Col. T. D. Williams	Chebanse..	.....	Co. F, 25th Inf.	K. at Stone River, Tenn., Dec. 31, 1862.
Serg. Jas. M. Clark	Iroquois Co	June 4, 1861..	Co. F, 25th Inf.	D. at Clear Creek, Tenn., June 23, 1862.
Serg. I. H. Anderson	Iroquois Co	June 4, 1861..	Co. F, 25th Inf.	D. at Jefferson City, Mo., Oct. 23, 1861.
Corp. M. Neighbor..	Ash Grove	June 4, 1861..	Co. F, 25th Inf.	K. at Pea Ridge, Ark., March 8, 1862.
Corp. T. Peebles...	Martinton	June 4, 1861..	Co. F, 25th Inf.	K. at Chickamauga, Sept. 19, 1863.
Martin V. B. Allen.	Onarga .....	June 4, 1861.	Co. F, 25th Inf.	K. at Stone River, Dec. 31, 1862.
Joseph Guhl.....	Martinton	June 4, 1861..	Co. F, 25th Inf.	D. at Murfreesboro, Jan. 8, 1863.
Torman Hoel.....	Iroquois Co	.....	Co. F, 25th Inf.	D. at Rolla, Mo., Feb. 6, 1862.
James Johnson.....	Martinton	June 4, 1861..	Co. F, 25th Inf.	K. at Mission Ridge, Nov. 25, 1865.
William Johns.....	Martinton	June 4, 1861..	Co. F, 25th Inf.	D. at Springfield, Mo., Nov. 11, 1861.
Thomas Kinder.....	Loda .....	June 4, 1861.	Co. F, 25th Inf.	D. at Chattanooga, Jan. 11, 1864.
John Little.....	Iroquois Co	June 4, 1861..	Co. F, 25th Inf.	K. at Mission Ridge, Nov. 25, 1863.



NAME.	RESIDENCE.	MUSTERED IN.	ORGANIZATION.	KILLED OR DIED.
Milo Lee.....	Martinton	June 4, 1861..	Co. F, 25th Inf.	D. at St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 27, 1861.
Louis Riddle .....	Iroquois Co	June 4, 1861..	Co. F, 25th Inf.	D. at St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 10, 1861.
Joseph Riddle .....	Iroquois Co	June 4, 1861..	Co. F, 25th Inf.	D. at St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 18, 1863.
Michael Slusher....	Milford .....	June 4, 1861..	Co. F, 25th Inf.	D. at Otterville, Mo., Oct. 15, 1861.
F. Stufflebeam.....	Milford .....	June 4, 1861..	Co. F, 25th Inf.	K. at Chickamauga, Sept. 19, 1863.
Edward Schmahorn ..	Martinton ..	June 4, 1861..	Co. F, 25th Inf.	D. at Rolla, Mo., Dec. 7, 1861.
W. C. Ayres .....	Ashkum .....	.....	Co. F, 25th Inf.	K. at Stone River, Dec. 31, 1862.
Jos. C. Bullington....	Iroquois Co	.....	Co. F, 25th Inf.	K. near Atlanta, Ga., July 22, 1864.
Daniel Harrington....	Iroquois Co	.....	Co. F, 25th Inf.	D. at Bridgeport, Ala., Nov. 16, 1863.
Oliver H. Hopkins....	Iroquois .....	.....	Co. F, 25th Inf.	D. at Rolla, Mo., Nov. 25, 1861.
John Starritt .....	Ashkum .....	June 1, 1861..	Co. G, 25th Inf.	D. at St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 11, 1861.
Isaac Taylor .....	Ashkum .....	June 1, 1861..	D. at Chattanooga, Dec. 23, 1863.	
Joel L. Brooks .....	Ashkum .....	.....	Co. G, 25th Inf.	D. at Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 22, 1864.
Robert Robinson .....	Ashkum .....	.....	Co. G, 25th Inf.	D. at Knoxville, Tenn., Feb. 7, 1863.
Elisha Karr .....	Iroquois Co	.....	Co. E, 39th Inf.	K. at Drury's Bluffs, Va., May 14, 1864.
William Thomas .....	Milford .....	Aug. 25, 1861..	Co. G, 42d Inf.	D. at Tipton, Mo., Jan. 24, 1862.
Phillander H. Foster ..	Bunkum .....	Aug. 17, 1861..	Co. H, 42d Inf.	D. at Tipton, Mo., Dec. 25, 1861.
William Gilbert .....	Bunkum .....	Aug. 27, 1861..	Co. H, 42d Inf.	D. Nov. 11, 1861.
Isaac Hoagland .....	Bunkum .....	Aug. 17, 1861..	Co. H, 42d Inf.	D. at Smithton, Mo., Jan. 3, 1862.
Joseph Sherrill .....	Iroquois Co	Aug. 27, 1861..	Co. H, 42d Inf.	K. at Resaca, Ga., May 14, 1864.
Isaac F. Smith .....	Ashkum .....	March 5, 1865..	Co. K, 43d Inf.	D. at Little Rock, Ark., Aug. 4, 1865.
James W. Trotter .....	Middleport ..	Aug. 9, 1861..	Co. B, 51st Inf.	K. in action, Sept. 20, 1863.
Corp. M. Hogle .....	Middleport ..	Sept. 20, 1861..	Co. C, 51st Inf.	D. at Sheldon, Ill., March 26, 1862.
Corp. R. A. Tilton .....	Middleport ..	Sept. 20, 1861..	Co. C, 51st Inf.	D. at Middleport, Ill., July 23, 1863.
Corp. H. P. Canada .....	Middleport ..	Sept. 20, 1861..	Co. C, 51st Inf.	D. at Farmington, Miss., July 24, 1862.
Corp. W. Curry .....	Middleport ..	Sept. 20, 1861..	Co. C, 51st Inf.	D. at Farmington, Miss., May 28, 1862.
Corp. Chamberlain .....	Middleport ..	Nov. 20, 1861..	Co. C, 51st Inf.	D. at Farmington, Miss., July 24, 1862.
Corp. G. Gravel .....	Middleport ..	Sept. 20, 1861..	Co. C, 51st Inf.	D. at Andersonville, Oct. 15, 1864.
Corp. N. R. Harris .....	Middleport ..	Sept. 20, 1861..	Co. C, 51st Inf.	D. at Chicago, Jan. 30, 1862.
Corp. R. A. Jolley .....	Middleport ..	Nov. 1, 1861..	Co. C, 51st Inf.	D. near Corinth, June 11, 1862.
Corp. J. W. Lyman .....	Middleport ..	Oct. 1, 1861..	Co. C, 51st Inf.	D. at Richmond, Va., March 12, 1864.
Corp. W. Matthews .....	Middleport ..	Oct. 15, 1861..	Co. C, 51st Inf.	D. at Mound City, March 25, 1862.
Corp. C. W. Miller .....	Middleport ..	Sept. 20, 1861..	Co. C, 51st Inf.	D. at Chicago, Jan. 7, 1862.
Corp. Montgomery .....	Middleport ..	Nov. 20, 1861..	Co. C, 51st Inf.	K. at Chickamauga, Sept. 20, 1864.
Louis Green .....	Middleport ..	Dec. 23, 1863..	Co. C, 51st Inf.	D. at Louisville, Ky., July 6, 1864.
George W. Joel .....	Middleport ..	.....	Co. C, 51st Inf.	D. at Chattanooga, Sept. 14, 1864.
Isaac Houghland .....	Middleport ..	.....	Co. C, 51st Inf.	K. at Franklin, Tenn., Nov. 30, 1864.
Oscar Wade .....	Beaverville ..	.....	Co. C, 51st Inf.	D. near Atlanta, Ga., Sept. 20, 1864.
George Connell .....	Iroquois Co	Feb. 27, 1864..	Co. C, 51st Inf.	K. at Kenesaw M'n, June 27, 1864.
Levi Edwards .....	Belmont .....	March 31, 1862..	Co. C, 51st Inf.	D. at Nashville, Nov. 2, —.
Jasper N. Moore .....	Belmont .....	March 31, 1862..	Co. C, 51st Inf.	D. at Annapolis, Md., May 8, 1864.
David A. Oppy .....	Iroquois Co	March 20, 1864..	Co. C, 51st Inf.	D. Dec. 6, 1864.
William P. Sallee .....	Iroquois Co	Feb. 29, 1864..	Co. C, 51st Inf.	D. June 30, 1864.
Corp. W. Langhlin .....	Onarga .....	Sept. 24, 1861..	Co. C, 57th Inf.	K. at Corinth, Oct. 3, 1862.
William Clark .....	Onarga .....	Sept. 24, 1861..	Co. C, 57th Inf.	D. at Paducah, Ky.
Jonas Lash .....	Onarga .....	Sept. 24, 1861..	Co. C, 57th Inf.	D. at Pittsburg Land'g, April 15, 1862.
Clinton D. Root .....	Onarga .....	Sept. 24, 1861..	Co. C, 57th Inf.	D. at Quincy, Ill., May 21, 1862.
T. C. Rounsaville .....	Onarga .....	Sept. 24, 1861..	Co. C, 57th Inf.	K. at Shiloh, April 6, 1862.
Corp. C. G. Chapin .....	Clifton .....	Nov. 7, 1861..	Co. C, 58th Inf.	D. April 13, 1862.
Daniel Tengley .....	Ashkum .....	Jan. 1, 1864..	Co. C, 58th Inf.	D. at Montgomery, Ala., Sept. 29, 1865.
Capt. J. H. Jaquith .....	Chebanse .....	April 1, 1865..	Co. H, 58th Inf.	D. at Montgomery, Oct. 15, 1865.
Serg. C. Bard .....	Chebanse .....	March 13, 1865..	Co. H, 58th Inf.	D. at Montgomery, Sept. 23, 1865.
Samuel Butcher .....	Chebanse .....	March 14, 1865..	Co. H, 58th Inf.	D. at Montgomery, Sept. 27, 1865.
Michael Comfort .....	Chebanse .....	March 14, 1865..	Co. H, 58th Inf.	D. at Montgomery, Sept. 6, 1865.
Harmon Dimick .....	Martinton ..	Feb. 18, 1865..	Co. H, 58th Inf.	D. at Montgomery, Aug. 25, 1865.
Francis Dnlorgers .....	Papineau .....	March 6, 1865..	Co. H, 58th Inf.	D. at Montgomery, Aug. 11, 1865.
Leander Mercier .....	Papineau .....	March 6, 1865..	Co. H, 58th Inf.	D. at Montgomery, July 1, 1865.
Abraham B. Ogle .....	Chebanse .....	March 14, 1865..	Co. H, 58th Inf.	D. at Montgomery, July 9, 1865.
William Smith .....	Chebanse .....	Feb. 27, 1865..	Co. H, 58th Inf.	D. at Montgomery, July 17, 1865.
James Shottenkirk .....	Onarga .....	Aug. 7, 1862..	Co. K, 72d Inf.	D. at Franklin, Tenn., Nov. 30, 1864.
W. Shottenkirk .....	Onarga .....	Aug. 14, 1862..	Co. K, 72d Inf.	D. near Vicksburg, May 9, 1863.
Corp. W. Norton .....	Belmont .....	July 24, 1862..	Co. A, 76th Inf.	D. at Bolivar, Tenn., Oct. 26, 1862.
Corp. E. Troup .....	Middleport ..	July 24, 1862..	Co. A, 76th Inf.	D. at Jackson, Miss., July 11, 1863.
Corp. John Morris .....	Middleport ..	July 24, 1862..	Co. A, 76th Inf.	D. Oct. 22, 1864.
Elijah Barker .....	Middleport ..	July 24, 1862..	Co. A, 76th Inf.	D. at Vicksburg, Dec. 25, 1863.
William Crozier .....	Middleport ..	July 24, 1862..	Co. A, 76th Inf.	D. at Columbus, Ky., Oct. 8, 1862.
Peter Gravo .....	Iroquois Tp	July 24, 1862..	Co. A, 76th Inf.	D. at Port Hudson, La., Aug. 30, 1864.
N. S. Hundley .....	Middleport ..	July 24, 1862..	Co. A, 76th Inf.	D. at St. Louis, Dec. 18, 1862.
George W. Izzard .....	Middleport ..	July 24, 1862..	Co. A, 76th Inf.	K. at Jackson, Miss., July 7, 1864.
Henry Jones .....	Middleport ..	July 24, 1862..	Co. A, 76th Inf.	D. at Memphis, Tenn., April 7, 1863.
Daniel G. Jacobs .....	Middleport ..	July 24, 1862..	Co. A, 76th Inf.	D. at Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 12, 1863.
Frank Jackson .....	Belmont .....	July 24, 1862..	Co. A, 76th Inf.	D. at Vicksburg, May 18, 1864.
Elisha M. Kendall .....	Belmont .....	July 24, 1862..	Co. A, 76th Inf.	D. at Middleport, Ill., Sept. 27, 1864.
Joel Lesco .....	Iroquois Tp	July 24, 1862..	Co. A, 76th Inf.	D. April 16, 1864.
William McAtce .....	Belmont .....	July 24, 1862..	Co. A, 76th Inf.	D. at Bolivar, Tenn., Oct. 23, 1862.
George Miller .....	Iroquois Tp	July 24, 1862..	Co. A, 76th Inf.	K. at Jackson, Miss., July 7, 1864.
James H. O'Brine .....	Concord .....	July 24, 1862..	Co. A, 76th Inf.	D. at Vicksburg, Dec. 26, 1863.
John Rineheart .....	Middleport ..	July 24, 1862..	Co. A, 76th Inf.	D. at Halfway Sta., Ind., July 24, 1864.
Ezekiel Rockhold .....	Belmont .....	July 24, 1862..	Co. A, 76th Inf.	K. June 2, 1863.
Samuel Roberts .....	Middleport ..	July 24, 1862..	Co. A, 76th Inf.	D. at Vicksburg, Jan. 8, 1864.
Asa Sapp .....	Belmont .....	July 24, 1862..	Co. A, 76th Inf.	D. at Memphis, Sept. 7, 1864.
Chas. W. Spencer .....	Iroquois Tp	July 24, 1862..	Co. A, 76th Inf.	D. at Vicksburg, June 22, 1863.

NAME.	RESIDENCE.	MUSTERED IN.	ORGANIZATION.	KILLED OR DIED.
Robert Wright ....	Middleport	July 24, 1862.	Co. A, 76th Inf.	D. at Memphis, Oct. 6, 1864.
William F. Wilson.	Belmont	July 24, 1862.	Co. A, 76th Inf.	D. at Vicksburg, May 28, 1864.
James Brown.....	Middleport	July 24, 1862.	Co. A, 76th Inf.	D. at Cairo, Oct. 7, 1864.
A. Brandenburg....	Middleport	July 24, 1862.	Co. A, 76th Inf.	D. at Middleport, Nov. 12, 1864.
J. C. Endsley, Jr., ..	Middleport	July 24, 1862.	Co. A, 76th Inf.	K. at Blakeley, Ala., April 9, 1865.
R. E. Fennemore....	Crab Apple	July 24, 1862.	Co. A, 76th Inf.	D. at Vicksburg, Jan. 30, 1864.
Langdon Hogle.....	Middleport	July 24, 1862.	Co. A, 76 h Inf.	D. at Memphis, Sept. 22, 1864.
Calvin Mason.....	Belmont	July 24, 1862.	Co. A, 76th Inf.	D. at Middleport, Jan. 2, 1865.
Micajah Moore.....	Middleport	July 24, 1862.	Co. A, 76th Inf.	D. at Mobile, Ala., May 22, 1865.
Joseph Cote.....	St. Mary....	Aug. 7, 1862..	Co. D, 76th Inf.	D. at Memphis, Tenn.
Dephis Fortin.....	St. Mary....	July 28, 1862.	Co. D, 76th Inf.	D. at St. Mary, Ill., Dec. 10, 1864.
Lient. P. I. Williams	Milford.....	.....	Co. E, 76th Inf.	D. at Vicksburg, Miss., June 21, 1863.
Serg. J. M. Beedle..	Beaver.....	Aug. 9, 1862..	Co. E, 76th Inf.	D. at Memphis, April 12, 1863.
Corp. J. B. McKinley	Ash Grove..	Aug. 6, 1862..	Co. E, 76th Inf.	D. March 20, 1865.
Corp. S. Hall.....	Crab Apple	Aug. 1, 1862..	Co. E, 76th Inf.	D. July 29, 1864.
Corp. H. H. Palmer	Beaver.....	Aug. 7, 1862..	Co. E, 76th Inf.	D. at Holly Springs, Dec. 19, 1862.
Joseph Eastburn...	Concord.....	Aug. 7, 1862..	Co. E, 76th Inf.	D. at Sheldon, Ill., Dec. 9, 1864.
Abel Burroughs....	Concord.....	Aug. 9, 1862..	Co. E, 76th Inf.	D. at Vicksburg, Aug. 22, 1864.
Benjamin Bratton..	Ash Grove..	Aug. 1, 1862..	Co. E, 76th Inf.	D. at La Grange, Tenn., Mar. 18, 1863.
Samuel Clemens....	Concord.....	Aug. 4, 1862..	Co. E, 76th Inf.	D. at Moscow, Tenn., Feb. 2, 1863.
Joseph W. Cleaver..	Milford.....	Aug. 12, 1862.	Co. E, 76th Inf.	D. at Cairo, Sept. 3, 1863.
T. F. Eastburn.....	Middleport	Aug. 4, 1862..	Co. E, 76th Inf.	D. at Memphis, Tenn., Sept. 28, 1864.
John W. Garland....	Milford.....	Aug. 3, 1862..	Co. E, 76th Inf.	D. at Milford, Dec. 7, 1863.
Addison Hoskins..	Milford.....	Aug. 8, 1863..	Co. E, 76th Inf.	D. at Milford, May 23, 1864.
Thomas P. Handy....	Prairie Gr'n	Aug. 2, 1862..	Co. E, 76th Inf.	D. at Columbus, Ky., Nov. 25, 1862.
James Kline.....	Beaver.....	Aug. 9, 1862..	Co. E, 76th Inf.	D. at Jefferson Barracks, Aug. 18, 1863.
Robert Leard.....	Milford.....	Aug. 1, 1862..	Co. E, 76th Inf.	D. at Memphis, March 11, 1863.
H. B. Longnecker..	Ash Grove..	Aug. 11, 1862.	Co. E, 76th Inf.	D. at Mobile, Ala., June 1, 1865.
Henry S. Murray....	Beaver.....	Aug. 9, 1862..	Co. E, 76th Inf.	D. at Memphis, Aug. 16, 1863.
Thomas W. Maister	Concord.....	Aug. 9, 1862..	Co. E, 76th Inf.	D. at Cairo, Nov. 15, 1863.
S. W. Montgomery..	Ash Grove..	Aug. 6, 1862..	Co. E, 76th Inf.	D. July 11, 1864.
Amos W. Markley....	Concord.....	Aug. 4, 1862..	Co. E, 76th Inf.	K. near Jackson, Miss., July 7, 1864.
Edward Mitchell....	Middleport	Aug. 9, 1862..	Co. E, 76th Inf.	D. at Vicksburg, Aug. 8, 1863.
Mason Pier.....	Milford.....	Aug. 10, 1862..	Co. E, 76th Inf.	Drowned at Natchez, Aug. 14, 1863.
Moses Spain.....	Ash Grove..	Aug. 1, 1862..	Co. E, 76th Inf.	D. at Memphis, March 7, 1865.
Hamilton Spain....	Ash Grove..	Aug. 3, 1862..	Co. E, 76th Inf.	D. at La Grange, Tenn., Dec. 16, 1862.
Joseph Sallee.....	Beaver.....	Aug. 11, 1862.	Co. E, 76th Inf.	D. at Beaver, Ill., Nov. 22, 1863.
John H. Best.....	Crab Apple	Dec. 17, 1863.	Co. E, 76th Inf.	D. at Morganza, La., Aug. 16, 1864.
Clinton Cleaver.....	Milford.....	.....	Co. E, 76th Inf.	D. at Tallahatchie, Miss., Jan. 1, 1863.
Isaac M. Caldwell..	Concord.....	.....	Co. E, 76th Inf.	D. at Memphis, May 4, 1863.
Jas. W. Higginson..	Ash Grove..	.....	Co. E, 76th Inf.	D. at Natchez, Nov. 3, 1863.
Serg. W. E. Schofield	Loda.....	July 31, 1863.	Co. K, 76th Inf.	D. at Memphis, Tenn., May 18, 1863.
Serg. H. B. Hussey..	Ash Grove..	July 22, 1862.	Co. K, 76th Inf.	K. at Blakeley, Ala., April 9, 1865.
Corp. J. G. Clawson	Ash Grove..	Aug. 5, 1862..	Co. K, 76th Inf.	D. at La Grange, Tenn., Dec. 4, 1862.
Elijah Bratton.....	Ash Grove..	Aug. 1, 1862..	Co. K, 76th Inf.	K. at Jackson, Miss., July 7, 1864.
Lodis Dilleback....	Loda.....	Aug. 1, 1862..	Co. K, 76th Inf.	K. at Jackson, Miss., July 7, 1864.
Hiram B. Harris....	Ash Grove..	July 25, 1862.	Co. K, 76th Inf.	D. at Oxford, Miss., Dec. 17, 1864.
William B. King....	Loda.....	Aug. 5, 1862..	Co. K, 76th Inf.	D. at Holly Springs, Dec. 10, 1862.
Oliver P. Nail.....	Ash Grove..	Aug. 1, 1862..	Co. K, 76th Inf.	D. at Columbus, Ky., Oct. 5, 1862.
Aaron Russell.....	Ash Grove..	Aug. 1, 1862..	Co. K, 76th Inf.	D. at La Grange, Tenn., Nov. 16, 1862.
Samuel Rowley.....	Ash Grove..	July 25, 1862.	Co. K, 76th Inf.	K. at Jackson, Miss., July 7, 1864.
George W. Thomas..	Ash Grove..	Aug. 5, 1862..	Co. K, 76th Inf.	D. at La Grange, Tenn., Dec. 3, 1862.
Joel L. Vaughn.....	Ash Grove..	Aug. 10, 1862.	Co. K, 76th Inf.	D. at St. Louis, April 11, 1863.
Elisha Hawkins.....	Ash Grove..	Dec. 9, 1863..	Co. K, 76th Inf.	D. July 7, 1864.
Wm. Radway.....	Iroquois Co	July 7, 1862..	Co. C, 88th Inf.	D. at Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 13, 1864.
Myron Anderson....	Iroquois Co	Aug. 10, 1862.	Co. C, 88th Inf.	K. at Adairsville, Ga., May 17, 1864.
Elon C. Burnett....	Ashknm....	Aug. 10, 1862.	Co. C, 88th Inf.	D. at Murfreesboro, Aug. 3, 1863.
John Lynn.....	Clifton.....	July 29, 1862.	Co. C, 88th Inf.	D. Dec. 8, 1862.
Charles H. Miller..	Clifton.....	July 29, 1862.	Co. C, 88th Inf.	D. Jan. 30, 1864.
Abraham Weaver....	Loda.....	Aug. 10, 1862.	Co. C, 88th Inf.	K. at Stone River, Dec. 31, 1862.
Serg. J. V. T. Shaffer	Ashkum....	Aug. 14, 1862.	Co. K, 88th Inf.	D. at Gallatin, Tenn., Dec. 26, 1862.
James Brett.....	Ashkum....	Aug. 14, 1862.	Co. K, 88th Inf.	D. in Andersonville pr., July 25, 1864.
Louis T. Trounville	Clifton.....	Aug. 14, 1862.	Co. D, 89th Inf.	D. Nov. 14, 1862.
Leon J. Laurant....	Clifton.....	Aug. 16, 1862.	Co. D, 89th Inf.	D. in Andersonville pr., Sept. 1, 1864.
Magloire Puoton....	Clifton.....	Aug. 16, 1862.	Co. D, 89th Inf.	D. at Louisville, Ky., Sept. 2, 1863.
John Tibault.....	Clifton.....	Aug. 16, 1862.	Co. D, 89th Inf.	D. at Louisville, Ky., Feb. 3, 1864.
Corp. Brandenburg	Middleport	Aug. 18, 1862.	Co. B, 113th Inf.	D. at Vicksburg, June 18, 1863.
Noah Buck.....	Middleport	Aug. 9, 1862..	Co. B, 113th Inf.	D. at Corinth, Miss., Sept. 17, 1863.
John Bartholomew..	Martinton..	Aug. 9, 1862..	Co. B, 113th Inf.	D. at Corinth, Miss., Sept. 15, 1863.
Jonathan W. Lyman	Middleport	Aug. 9, 1862..	Co. B, 113th Inf.	D. at Jefferson Barracks, Jan. 21, 1863.
Amrose Leighton....	Middleport	Aug. 9, 1862..	Co. B, 113th Inf.	D. at Corinth, Miss., Sept. 27, 1863.
Francis Ponto.....	Chebanse...	Aug. 9, 1862..	Co. B, 113th Inf.	K. at Vicksburg, May 19, 1863.
Serg. S. L. Thomas..	Onarga.....	Aug. 12, 1862.	Co. D, 113th Inf.	D. at St. Louis, Mo., March 11, 1863.
Serg. E. G. Hall.....	Onarga.....	July 30, 1862.	Co. D, 113th Inf.	D. at Young's Point, Feb. 13, 1863.
Serg. G. W. Parcell	Onarga.....	July 28, 1862.	Co. D, 113th Inf.	D. at Memphis, Dec. 31, 1863.
Serg. T. Webster....	Onarga.....	July 30, 1862.	Co. D, 113th Inf.	D. at Mobile, Ala., July 4, 1864.
Corp. John Harper..	Onarga.....	July 29, 1862.	Co. D, 113th Inf.	K. Sept. 30, 1864.
John W. Briden....	Onarga.....	July 30, 1862.	Co. D, 113th Inf.	D. at Del Rey, Ill., March 5, 1863.
Henry B. Conn.....	Spring Cr'k	Aug. 7, 1862..	Co. D, 113th Inf.	D. at Camp Butler, Ill., July 3, 1864.
Alonzo W. Curtis...	Onarga.....	Aug. 14, 1862.	Co. D, 113th Inf.	D. at Young's Point, La., Feb. 10, 1863.
Owen L. Evans.....	Onarga.....	Aug. 7, 1862..	Co. D, 113th Inf.	K. at Arkansas Post, Jan. 11, 1864.
Wm. H. Frazee.....	Onarga.....	Aug. 14, 1862.	Co. D, 113th Inf.	D. at Camp Butler, Ill., Oct. 8, 1864.



NAME.	RESIDENCE.	MUSTERED IN.	ORGANIZATION.	KILLED OR DIED.
George W. Goble..	Onarga ....	Aug. 19, 1862.	Co. D, 113th Inf	D. near Yazoo river, Jan. 2, 1863.
Samuel J. Harper..	Onarga ....	Aug. 4, 1862.	Co. D, 113th Inf	D. at St. Louis, Feb. 25, 1863.
Andrew S. Harper..	Onarga ....	Aug. 6, 1862..	Co. D, 113th Inf	D. at Holly Springs, Jan. 11, 1863.
James G. Hopkins..	Onarga ....	Aug. 9, 1862	Co. D, 113th Inf	D. at Onarga, April 6, 1863.
James S. Jones....	Onarga ....	Aug. 15, 1862.	Co. D, 113th Inf	K. June 30, 1864.
Thomas Lacy.....	Onarga ....	July 30, 1862.	Co. D, 113th Inf	D. at Mound City, Ill., Mar. 20, 1863.
William Lee.....	Onarga ....	Aug. 9, 1862..	Co. D, 113th Inf	D. at Vicksburg, June 26, 1863.
William Marshall..	Onarga ....	Aug. 14, 1863.	Co. D, 113th Inf	D. at Camp Butler, Feb. 22, 1864.
Abraham Meffard..	Milford ....	Aug. 13, 1862.	Co. D, 113th Inf	D. at Memphis, March 12, 1865.
Hiram Shaw.....	Onarga ....	July 30, 1862.	Co. D, 113th Inf	D. at Chicago, Oct. 17, 1862.
Harvey Strain.....	Milford ....	Aug. 15, 1862.	Co. D, 113th Inf	D. at Memphis, Dec. 17, 1862.
Landrum Search....	Onarga ....	Aug. 20, 1862.	Co. D, 113th Inf	D. on hospital boat, March 29, 1863.
David Swank.....	Ash Grove..	Aug. 7, 1862..	Co. D, 113th Inf	D. at Onarga, Oct. 2, 1862.
Lewis Thomas.....	Onarga ....	Aug. 12, 1862.	Co. D, 113th Inf	D. at Richmond, Va., Aug. 19, 1863.
Greenberry Davis..	Onarga ....	Jan. 14, 1864.	Co. D, 113th Inf	D. in Andersonville pr., Aug. 22, 1864.
Luke Harrison.....	Onarga ....	Jan. 4, 1864.	Co. D, 113th Inf	D. at Memphis, June 1, 1864.
Alden Lindsay....	Onarga ....	Oct. 22, 1863.	Co. D, 113th Inf	D. in Andersonville pr., Aug. 22, 1864.
Simeon T. Shook..	Middleport ..	Dec. 9, 1863..	Co. D, 113th Inf	D. in Andersonville, Sept. 15, 1864.
John Stufflebeam..	Onarga ....	.....	Co. D, 113th Inf	D. at Camp Butler, Feb. 13, 1864.
Corp. W. F. Riggle	Middleport ..	Aug. 12, 1862.	Co. F, 113th Inf	D. at St. Louis, April 1, 1863.
George E. Barden..	Middleport ..	Aug. 12, 1862.	Co. F, 113th Inf	K. at Arkansas Post, Jan. 11, 1863.
Benjamin A. Burt ..	Milford ....	Aug. 12, 1862.	Co. F, 113th Inf	D. at St. Louis, Feb. 8, 1863.
Manfred Flesher..	Iroquois Tp	Aug. 12, 1862.	Co. F, 113th Inf	D. in Iroquois county, Oct. 13, 1863.
Peter Freeberg....	Beaver.....	Aug. 12, 1862.	Co. F, 113th Inf	D. at Memphis, Feb. 26, 1863.
Joseph S. Harwood	Gilman.....	Aug. 12, 1862.	Co. F, 113th Inf	D. at Memphis, March 3, 1863.
Walter Hooker....	Middleport ..	Aug. 12, 1862.	Co. F, 113th Inf	D. at home, Feb. 20, 1865.
H. A. Henderson ..	Middleport ..	Aug. 12, 1862.	Co. F, 113th Inf	D. at Young's Point, March 18, 1863.
R. Leatherman....	Iroquois Co	.....	Co. F, 113th Inf	D. at Camp Butler.
Marellus Keen....	Middleport ..	Aug. 12, 1862.	Co. F, 113th Inf	D. on steamer Ed. Walsh, Jan. 22, 1863.
James McManus....	Belmont....	Aug. 12, 1862.	Co. F, 113th Inf	D. in Iroquois county, Jan. 15, 1865.
Joseph Miller.....	Belmont....	Aug. 12, 1862.	Co. F, 113th Inf	D. in Andersonville, Oct. 18, 1864.
N. B. McClintock..	Middleport ..	Aug. 12, 1862.	Co. F, 113th Inf	D. at Chicago, Nov. 15, 1862.
Wm. N. Sturtevant	Iroquois Tp	Aug. 12, 1862.	Co. F, 113th Inf	D. in Iowa, March —, 1863.
Abijah Shepard....	Iroquois Tp	Aug. 12, 1862.	Co. F, 113th Inf	D. at Young's Point, Feb. 10, 1863.
William Tyler.....	Middleport ..	Aug. 12, 1862.	Co. F, 113th Inf	D. at Chickasaw Bluff, Dec. 31, 1862.
Henry Warren.....	Middleport ..	Aug. 12, 1862.	Co. F, 113th Inf	D. at Camp Butler, May 21, 1863.
J. A. Whiteman....	Concord....	Aug. 12, 1862.	Co. F, 113th Inf	D. at St. Louis, July 7, 1863.
Lyman Bender.....	Belmont....	.....	Co. F, 113th Inf	D. in Andersonville pr., Oct. 10, 1864.
James Miller.....	Middleport ..	Dec. 4, 1863..	Co. F, 113th Inf	D. in Andersonville, Oct. —, 1864.
James O. Pugh....	Middleport ..	Dec. 28, 1863.	Co. F, 113th Inf	K. at Guntown, Miss., June 10, 1864.
John Rush.....	Middleport ..	March 4, 1864.	Co. F, 113th Inf	D. at Springfield, Ill.
Isaac D. Tullis....	Belmont....	.....	Co. F, 113th Inf	D. at Camp Butler, March 18, 1864.
Joseph Warren....	Belmont....	.....	Co. F, 113th Inf	D. at Memphis, March 22, 1865.
Thomas Elliott....	Chebanse...	Aug. 22, 1862.	Co. H, 113th Inf	D. at Memphis, Dec. 17, 1862.
Sylvester Lyons....	Chebanse...	Aug. 13, 1862.	Co. H, 113th Inf	D. at Young's Point, April 9, 1863.
Henry A. Miner....	Chebanse...	Aug. 7, 1862..	Co. H, 113th Inf	D. at Corinth, Miss., Sept. 6, 1863.
Frank Roth.....	Chebanse...	Aug. 13, 1862.	Co. H, 113th Inf	D. near Ripley, Miss., June 10, 1864.
George Stiffles....	Chebanse...	Aug. 14, 1862.	Co. H, 113th Inf	D. at Young's Point, Feb. 4, 1863.
Corp. Wm. Rush....	Iroquois Co	Aug. 8, 1862..	Co. I, 113th Inf	D. at St. Louis, Feb. 17, 1863.
Benjamin Appleget	Iroquois Co	Aug. 8, 1862..	Co. I, 113th Inf	D. at Corinth, Miss., Aug. 17, 1863.
Alexander Black..	Iroquois....	Aug. 11, 1862.	Co. I, 113th Inf	D. at St. Louis, Dec. 20, 1862.
Harvey Barr.....	Iroquois Co	Aug. 15, 1862.	Co. I, 113th Inf	K. at Arkansas Post, Jan. 11, 1863.
Thomas Carpenter.	Iroquois Co	Aug. 8, 1862..	Co. I, 113th Inf	D. at Memphis, Dec. 15, 1862.
Henry Fry.....	Iroquois Co	Aug. 9, 1862.	Co. I, 113th Inf	D. at Camp Yates, Ill., Jan. 13, 1864.
Clause Halderman..	Iroquois Co	Aug. 10, 1862.	Co. I, 113th Inf	D. at C'p Hancock Ill., Oct. 19, 1862.
Thomas Kane.....	Iroquois Co	Aug. 14, 1862.	Co. I, 113th Inf	D. at Camp Butler, Oct. 13, 1863.
Wm. Leatherman....	Iroquois....	Aug. 7, 1862..	Co. I, 113th Inf	D. at Camp Butler, March 14, 1863.
Riley Lister.....	Iroquois Co	Aug. 7, 1862..	Co. I, 113th Inf	D. at Camp Butler, Oct. 28, 1863.
Abraham Markley..	Iroquois Co	Aug. 12, 1862.	Co. I, 113th Inf	D. at Memphis, Dec. 6, 1862.
Cyrus Murray.....	Iroquois Co	Aug. 10, 1862.	Co. I, 113th Inf	D. at Memphis, Dec. 7, 1862.
Samuel Morgan....	Iroquois Co	Aug. 11, 1862.	Co. I, 113th Inf	D. at Memphis, Nov. 26, 1864.
Cornelius Morgan..	Iroquois Co	Aug. 9, 1862..	Co. I, 113th Inf	D. at Young's Point, April 5, 1862.
Mathew Pinneo....	Iroquois Co	Aug. 13, 1862.	Co. I, 113th Inf	D. at Young's Point, March 14, 1863.
Jacob F. Plummer..	Iroquois Co	Aug. 12, 1862.	Co. I, 113th Inf	D. on steamboat, Jan. 23, 1863.
Nimrod Romine....	Iroquois Co	Aug. 11, 1862.	Co. I, 113th Inf	D. at Young's Point, March 13, 1863.
Smiley J. Dawson..	Milford ....	Dec. 9, 1863..	Co. I, 113th Inf	D. at Cahawba, Ala., Sept. 8, 1864.
William R. Fry.....	.....	.....	Co. I, 113th Inf	D. at Camp Butler, April 10, 1863.
James A. Leighdy..	Milford ....	Dec. 9, 1863..	Co. I, 113th Inf	D. in Andersonville pr., Sept. 8, 1864.
Wm. C. Tuttle....	Chebanse...	Jan. 21, 1865.	Co. D, 150th Inf	D. at Nashville, Tenn., July 24, 1865.



# HISTORY OF IROQUOIS COUNTY.

BY E. S. RICKER.

Iroquois county is bounded on the north by Kankakee county, on the east by Indiana, on the south by Vermilion, and on the west by Ford county. It is about thirty-five and one-half miles from north to south, and thirty-two miles from east to west. It comprises seven ranges, two of which are fractional. By reference to the map it will be seen that five are reckoned west from the second principal meridian, and two east from the third principal meridian. All the townships in the county are numbered north from the base line. Starting at the south side with number twenty-four and finishing at the north with twenty-nine, we have six townships; a strip two miles wide on the north side of the last lying in Kankakee. The county is divided into twenty-five political townships.

The face of the country has few natural diversifications. Originally, Iroquois county was well wooded, and much valuable timber grew on the borders of the streams; but the woodman's ax with thoughtless care and speculative industry long ago thinned it out and consigned the choice growth to the uses of improvement far and near. The surface is well elevated and gently undulating. The southern border of the county rests upon the summit of the water-shed from which streams flow in opposite directions to the Illinois and the Wabash rivers. Iroquois county lies on the northern slope of this great ridge, a tract of country superb in every feature, and of rare fertility, whose superior advantages for dairying and agriculture, added to a fine geographical position in relation to markets, renders it possible to become one of the richest regions in the Northwest. The soil is a black vegetable mold, varying from one and a half to two feet in depth, and is nearly uniform throughout the county. The quadrilateral formed by the Iroquois river and comprising the northeast quarter of the county contains several sandy tracts, which possess but little fertility. These do not constitute more than five per cent of the whole area.

The county presents an admirable system of natural drainage by means of its larger watercourses and their numerous tributaries.

The principal streams are the Iroquois river, Sugar, Mud, Fountain Spring, Prairie, Langham, Pike and Beaver creeks. The chief feeders to these, which have recognized names, are Rush, Coon and Pigeon branches; Miller's, or the west branch of Spring creek; Shave Tail, or Jefferson; and the Ashkum and Gilman ditches. These streams are generally sluggish and turbid. The Iroquois river, from Sugar Island (just over the county line) to its mouth, is shallow and rocky. Along this whole distance silurian limestone abounds; but above the island the tide is deep and slack, and navigable for flat-boats nearly to the state line. Fish are tolerably abundant in the river and larger creeks, but less so than a few years ago. Artificial obstructions interfere with their running. The most common kinds found are pike, catfish, bass, suckers, dogfish, red-horse, some buffalo and a few eel. The River, Sugar, Mud, Spring, Langham and Beaver creeks are skirted by considerable timber belts. Some of the others have woodlands near their mouths, and a few spontaneous groves in the vicinity of watercourses are seen. Planted ones are becoming numerous and meet the eye in every direction. The choicest part of the natural timber has been cut and sent to market. In some places the land has been entirely cleared to improve it for pasture, as well as to feed the saw-mills. The most common varieties of timber are red, white and burr oak, black walnut, butternut, iron-wood, wild cherry, swamp beech, ash, sugar maple, soft maple, hickory, elm and honey locust. Crab apple and plum bushes abound in certain localities.

The geological facts are too meager to furnish much popular information. The county was once covered by the waters of lake Kankakee. It is supposed that this lake had a southeastern outlet into the Wabash valley before the present channel of the Kankakee river was worn through the sand ridges above and the deposits of rock below. The ancient southern outlet of lake Michigan through this county was grooved out by the glacier which crossed the present route of the Kankakee a little above Momence, and whose width at that point has been set down at seven miles. Continuing not far from the state line, the glacier bore southwest from the north line of the county, until it reached the Spring Creek valley, where its course was changed again to a more southerly direction. No rock is near the surface, and no other minerals of any value exist. In boring for water, coal has been found on several occasions in the eastern, central and northern sections of the county. It is reported that in sinking a well recently near the mouth of Langham creek, a vein of coal two feet thick was struck at a depth of fifty-eight feet; and

twenty feet lower another three feet thick. It is further stated that on the farm of Alexander Sword, Jr., in Iroquois township, coal was found two and one-half feet in thickness, ninety-two feet below the surface. It is said that east of Watseka coal has been discovered, but not in available quantity.

The artesian water found in this region is an interesting feature of the geological formation of this part of the country. Wells are obtained at a depth varying from twenty-five to 150 feet. Though his reasoning concerning the water-supply was limited to a comparatively small area, Thomas Lindsey, of Onarga township, was the first to bore with an intelligent theory and distinct purpose. Until 1854 none but surface wells were made. These customarily failed in the summer season, and the deprivation suffered was always serious, especially as cattle had to drink from stagnant pools, and, swallowing leeches, were attacked with what people called "bloody murrain," a disease which popularly covers a multitude of disorders. Much stock was lost every year; and more than this, the health of the country was greatly affected. Lindsey bored in the bottom of two wells with so much success as to set others to thinking that they could get water by boring from the top. The first to experiment in this way was Solomon Sturgis, whose farm lies just west of Gilman. A man named Hook, from Zanesville, Ohio, did the boring. He obtained water at a depth of 100 feet. It rose to the top of the ground, but did not flow. He next bored in the railroad well at Onarga, and at something over 100 feet a vein of great strength was reached. Samuel Harper, two miles east of Onarga, not long afterward got the tools to his place, and obtained a stream at eighty-five feet. This was the first flowing well in Iroquois county. A reservoir was excavated eight and one-half feet deep, and five feet in diameter, in the bottom of which the augur was sunk. Mr. Harper states that it filled in eight minutes. The roaring of this well introduced grateful sounds and substantial music to the ears of the family. It was regarded with curiosity and wonder, and attracted people from far and near, by stage and by rail. The newspapers spread word of it, for it harbingered not relief alone, but great possibilities also. The tools next went to Hamilton Jefferson's, and a good well was made on his farm. The third, obtained for Addison Harper, was remarkable for its force. John Oxford's, in the same neighborhood, was also very strong, "yielding," according to the editor of "Emery's Journal of Agriculture," who had visited it during the period of greatest interest, "some five or six barrels per minute." He adds, concerning Addison Harper's, that "the water had gradually



found its way up the outside of the pipe, coming up with great force, excavating a hole some thirty feet deep and wide, the pipe sinking down into it. So threatening was it that, fearing for the safety of his house near by, he removed it some distance off. Its fury subsided, and it now flows quietly as usual from the large pool made." All this occurred in the summer and fall of 1855. Probably there are now not fewer than two thousand of these wells in the county. The artesian region is about twenty miles wide, and not far from forty miles long. Its direction is northwest and southeast, and extends from Ford county across Iroquois into Indiana.

M. H. Messer, Esq., ex-county surveyor, has contributed the following facts in regard to the United States surveys in Iroquois county: Townships 24, 25, 26 and 27, except range 10, east of the latter, were surveyed by the United States' surveyor in 1822. William S. Hamilton, Elias Rector, and Enoch Steen were three of the surveyors. Townships 28, 29, and range 10 in 27 were surveyed in 1833 and 1834. William Lee, D. Ewing, J. B. McCall, Edward Smith and Dan Beckwith were engaged in this work. Some of the townships were erroneously surveyed by McCall, and he resurveyed them, erecting new corners, but neglecting to demolish the first ones, though he had been directed so to do. This accounts for the double corners. Some of the town and range lines were surveyed twice, resulting in the discovery that many of the corners were not properly located, but no corrections were made. Range 10 west, along the state line, was surveyed by Perrin Kent, in 1834 and 1842. The state line was surveyed in 1834, by Sylvester Sibley, and resurveyed in 1842 by Julius Hulanicki. The mile mounds made by Sibley were found by the last survey to be from six to twelve rods over a mile apart. Ewing was a major in the Black Hawk war, afterward a major-general of militia, and governor of Illinois during the last fifteen days of November, 1832.

Iroquois county was first settled in the winter of 1821-2 by Gurdon S. Hubbard, an Indian trader, then in the employ of the American Fur Company (John Jacob Astor & Co.). He was accompanied by Noel Vasseur, who was in his service, and continued so to be for twelve years. Hubbard came from Mackinaw, coasting Lake Michigan in a batteau of ten tons burden, and ascending the Chicago river, crossed the portage to the DesPlaines. Floating down this and ascending the Kankakee and Iroquois rivers, he reached the present site of Old Middleport. On the north side of the river, about one mile above this point, at the east end of the bend, where there was a small Indian village, he fixed his headquarters and established a

trading-post./ He stopped at this point but one winter, when he removed up the river the next fall to a place afterward called Bunkum,\* at the same time extending his operations over a wide territory. Besides the post at Bunkum, he had one on the Kankakee, ten miles above the state line, one on the Embarrass, another on the head waters of the Little Wabash, and two others still farther south. His custom was to open his trading house at the beginning of the hunting season — about the first of October — and to close it at the beginning of May. The Indians hunted on the Iroquois and its tributaries during October and November, and then went off south on the Vermilion, Okaw, Embarrass and Wabash rivers, where otter, bear, mink, deer, beaver, raccoon, muskrat and panther were more plenty. In the spring they returned. With Indian packing horses Hubbard transported his furs to Chicago, and from that place by boat to Mackinaw, where he spent the summer, returning in the fall with goods for traffic.

As early as 1826 he preëmpted a tract of land at Bunkum, and inclosed and cultivated 80 acres. This he entered when it came into market in 1831. It is now known as the Dunning farm, from the next owner, and was the first one improved in Iroquois county. He had a farmer named Allen Baxter, who after the first year got married in Indiana. His wife was the first white woman who settled the county. Hubbard himself wedded an Indian princess called in Wach-e-kee, the daughter of a Pottawatomie, chief of the Kankakee band (name unknown), by an Indian mother of Illinois Indian descent, named Monoska. She was a niece of the chief Tamin. She was dignified and intelligent, and declined to mingle with the common herd of red-skins, and was anxious to learn the manners and customs of her more favored pale sisters. Her complexion was light, and her form small, lithe, slender and comely. A romantic story is told of how she became endowed with royal distinction, but it is only a tradition. By this union Hubbard greatly strengthened his relations with the Indians, and secured their favor and protection. He acquired unbounded influence among them, and it is known that he placed more reliance on the fidelity and friendship of the Pottawatomie chief, Was-sus-kuk, than on that of any white man. By the influx of white population Hubbard found himself confronted with the alternative of divorcing his Indian wife or of losing caste

\* In a letter to B. F. Shankland, Esq., dated December 21, 1878, Mr. Hubbard said that he transferred his post to Bunkum in the fall of 1825. This was probably an inadvertence. He has since stated to the writer, and repeated the same in a letter to M. H. Messer, Esq., that he was located at Middleport but one winter.

with his own civilized race. He could but choose, and his choice was such as most men would have made under the circumstances. He has said that she was his constant delight, and that it was not done without a struggle between affection and expediency. Sometime after their separation she became the wife of Noel Vasseur. Hubbard had some Frenchmen in his service at Bunkum. Toussaint Bleau was one, and probably Isadore Chabert another. Bleau displayed in a marked degree the volatility of the French character. He married a daughter of Dr. Asa R. Palmer, of Danville, and sister to the late Rev. Charles R. Palmer, so long a resident of this county. Bleau was thrown from his carriage near the old McCormack House in Danville and killed.

Hubbard followed his trafficking as described until 1832, when he discontinued all his posts except the one at Bunkum. He had a store at Danville where he kept an assortment of goods, mostly for the whites; but in 1834 he closed up his business at both places and settled permanently in Chicago, where he is now living in full health and abundant prosperity. Hubbard's pack-trains made a standard route (known as Hubbard's trail) from Danville to Chicago, which gathered the travel for many miles on either side, as far south as Vincennes. It entered the county on the south at the line between sections 34 and 35, town 24, range 12 (Lovejoy township), and kept due north to a point one mile south of the north line of Milford township; there it made an angle and bore straight to Montgomery (Bunkum); from thence it went in a less direct line to Momence. Speaking of this himself in a letter to B. F. Shankland, Esq., Mr. Hubbard says: "The legislature of Illinois caused a state road to be laid out in 1834, and designated by milestones, from Vincennes to Chicago. The commissioners who located it and planted the stones tried hard, so they informed me, to get a straighter line and better ground than the 'Hubbard trail,' but were forced to follow with slight deviation my old track, which was on the dividing ridges between the waters flowing into the Wabash on the east and the Illinois on the west. Though mile-stones were planted, yet Hubbard's trail kept the principal travel until both it and the state road were abandoned and fenced in, new county roads being laid out to take their place."

The actual permanent settlement of Iroquois county was simultaneously begun at two points—Milford and Bunkum—in the spring of 1830. The Courtright brothers (Isaac, George and Richard) and John H. Miller, all from Fountain county, Indiana, formed one party and came and settled at Bunkum. Hezekiah Eastburn came from Ohio. William Hanan, Elijah Newcombe, and the widow McCulloch came with their families. Benjamin Fry, Benjamin Thomas and James





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Crozier, single men, came with the Newcombes and McCullochs. Additions were made to the community in the fall. Prominent among those who came the next year were John Hougland and Reuben Critchfield. A tavern was kept at this place on the south side of the river by Dr. Timothy Locy, in 1831. Probably this was the first house of entertainment opened in the county. Montgomery was laid out for the proprietor, Richard Montgomery, May 9, 1835, by James H. Rees, who was deputed by Dan. Beckwith, county surveyor of Vermilion county. It was situated on the south side of the river. Concord was surveyed also by Mr. Rees as deputy of Jonas Smith, surveyor of Iroquois county, in May, 1836. Henry Moore was the proprietor. This was on the north bank opposite Montgomery. The locality, including these two places, has always been known as "Bunkum." The origin of the name is traced to nothing better than an insignificant circumstance, from which vulgar designations often start, and by use become fixed in every-day speech./

In the spring of 1830 the following persons settled in the vicinity of Milford: Samuel Rush, Hiram Miles, James Singleton, Daniel Barbee, Abram Miller, Joseph Cox, Joseph Reading, and a colored man. Miles and Singleton staid but a short time after the departure of the Indians; they retreated also to the primeval solitudes. In the fall Anthony Stanley came from Ohio with a family of four sons: William, John, Micajah and Isaac; and two daughters: Rebecca and Elizabeth. The two first named sons were married. William Cox and William Pickerell arrived with their families; these and the Stanley's were Quakers. In the spring of 1831 this little congregation of Friends built the first house of worship ever erected in Iroquois county. It was a small cabin made of round logs, and was used as well for a school-house as for a meeting-house. Jefferson Mounts, from Indiana, James Osborne, John Hunnel, Jesse Amos and Lydia Parker, a widow, with her family, came also in the fall. A few new-comers appeared in the spring of 1831; Samuel McFall, afterward one of the first county commissioners, being of the number. Shortly after his arrival Pickerell built a corn-cracker, dignified with the name of mill, and until laid out in 1836, the place was called Pickerell's Mill—whence the name of Milford.

Early in 1834 a new settlement was begun on Upper Spring creek, in the vicinity of Del Rey. Jesse Amos moved over from Sugar creek, and was soon joined by John Miller from Covington, Indiana. In the fall Ira Lindsey, James Smith and Abram Lehigh, from Virginia, the latter living at this time on the Wabash, located in the same neighborhood. Lehigh did not bring his family till the beginning of the next year. Ash Grove was settled in 1834 by Lewis Roberts, brother



of Bishop Roberts, and his son-in-law, John Nunamaker. They were soon followed by John Hunnel, who had emigrated to Sugar creek in 1830.

The population of the county gathered for many years, even down to the building of the Illinois Central railroad in 1853, in proximity to the timber. On the west side of Sugar creek, about three miles above the mouth, was the Longshore settlement. Mahlon and James Longshore, Samuel Keene, Alexander Wilson, William Stanley and David Clanahan were some of the early settlers in this neighborhood. The Rush settlement, further up the creek, was begun by Samuel Rush in 1830. Chauncey Webster, John Body, Samuel Williams and Fleming located in that vicinity. On the Iroquois river, between Middleport and Bunkum, Texas became a place of some importance because of the crossing at that point, and the mill erected there by Isaac Courtright at a later day. The Pierce settlement, three or four miles below Middleport, had among the first settlers the Pierce brothers (William, John and David) Andrew Layton and James Wilson. The Flesher settlement was commenced on Lower Spring creek, in the spring of 1835, by Levi Thompson, who had come from Indiana and located on Sugar creek, below Milford, in the fall of 1831. Jedediah Darby settled there a little later in the season. In the fall John Flesher came with his family. Next year William Huckins, Jacob O. Feather, David Wright and Jefferson Mounts,—the latter from Sugar creek,—joined the advance settlers. Still farther down the river the town of Plato was surveyed and platted in May, 1836. This was when the internal improvement craze was at meridian height. Extravagant and delusive expectations were formed concerning this enterprise. It was advertised in glowing colors in the Chicago and La-Fayette papers; immense maps and posters were distributed in eastern cities, showing the whole landing at "Harbor Creek" lined with boats unloading and receiving merchandise. Lots were sold at fabulous prices; many persons in New York city investing in them. The proprietors nearly realized their ambition to secure the county-seat when it was removed from Bunkum. James Smith, an accomplished gentleman, having energy and capacity of a high order, who lived on Upper Spring creek, was the chief promoter of this scheme. He died suddenly in September, 1839, at the age of thirty-two. The death of Smith was likewise the death of Plato.

The Jones settlement, in the south angle of the river and Beaver creek, was begun in 1837 by Henry and Seth Jones. These, with Robert Hester and family, who soon joined them, were from Meigs county, Ohio. Shobar, Elliott, Peter Lowe and Simon Maybee located afterward in that section.

A colony of Norwegians, consisting of some thirty families, settled on the north side of Beaver creek about 1835. Their cabins extended three or four miles up stream from section 22, in range 12. The leading man lived and died on the J. S. Oxford place. Two family names were Oleson and Waity. They not being seasoned nor careful in their habits, sickness broke out among them to an alarming extent, and before two years as many as fifty had died. The diseases were mostly ague and bilious fever. One burying-place was near Clark's, on the west side of a small branch running south; and the other in a round grove a mile northeast of the Vankirk crossing. Most of the survivors moved to Fox river, Wisconsin.

Before passing further it will be well to give briefly the origin of the second great highway which traversed the county. As once all roads led to Rome, so in the early history of this county all roads led to Chicago. In 1830 Ben Butterfield, living on Stony creek, near Danville, went by way of Bunkum to Hickory creek and the Des-Plaines river, and made a selection for a home near Lockport, just above Joliet. Two families had recently settled in that section. He returned for his family, and in company with the two men living on Hickory creek, who had come back to Danville for supplies, he started December 7. It rained and snowed, and was very cold during the trip of nine days. He sent his ox-teams back to Danville to winter, keeping only a horse and three head of cattle; the latter he wintered on browse. They came through the winter in very poor condition. The next April he went back for his stock, this time trying a new route, driving a yoke of oxen and accompanied by two men and a boy. At Bourbonnais Grove he was advised by an old Indian that, as the Iroquois river "was a fool river that did not know enough to go down when it was once up," to go around it till he struck Spring creek, then to follow that until he could find a crossing. Near the Barden place, on Lower Spring creek, they were beset with a severe snow storm. The stream was high and they could not cross to the woods beyond, so they lay three days sheltered by the bank of the creek, suffering much from cold and hunger, waiting for the storm to abate and the water to subside. Finally after much difficulty they got over, and made their way to Stony creek without further incident. On the journey back he kept the same way, driving six yoke of oxen, two horses, twenty-five sheep, and twenty head of cows and young cattle. His son writes that "this was when he made what was called Butterfield's trail." When the Sac war broke out, the next spring, he moved back to Stony creek, where he remained till the following spring, when, the war having ended, he returned with his family to his home on the DesPlaines.

The track thus made became the route for an immense travel all the way from the Okaw river. This trace diverged from Hubbard's at Bicknel's Point, and crossed the south line of this county at a point some three miles west of Hoopeston. It passed through Pigeon Grove and crossed Spring creek at a place called by the early settlers "the Gap," about two miles northeast of Buckley. It followed the general course of the creek to a point half a mile east of the Barden Farm, where it turned north, east of, but nearly on, the range line; then proceeded east of north, leaving Plato about a mile to the right. It passed Prairie creek half a mile west of L'Erable, and in a direction nearly north from there struck Langham, which was then called "White Woman." On account of high banks it followed up and crossed that stream near the head of the timber, about a mile east of the Central railroad. From here in a northeast course it ran to Sammon's Point, a mile and a half below the county-line. After improvements were begun at Plato a *detour* was made to that place. The Kankakee was forded at Hawkins', which corresponds to the lower end of Bourbonnais Grove. From here it went to Bloom's Grove, Twelve Mile Grove and Hickory creek; at the latter point it forked, both trails leading to Chicago, one of them by way of Cooper's Grove and Blue Island, intersecting Hubbard's trace; the other by way of Joliet. Later travel made several other routes from the Kankakee. Butterfield moved to Hadley, and after that to a place called Bloom, on the Chicago and Vincennes state road, where he kept a "Hoosier tavern" twenty-one years. He died in Franklin county, Iowa, April 28, 1878, aged eighty-three.

In May, 1832, the mail carrier from Chicago, when this side of the Kankakee, saw some Indians pursuing him (which proved afterward to be only for a friendly purpose), and being prepared by the hostilities now commenced in the Rock river country to take fright on the merest occasion, fled to Danville, passing through Bunkum and Milford. He dashed into the latter settlement hatless and with panting horse, stopping only long enough to get something for himself and animal to eat, when he pressed on spreading the alarm as he went. The settlers on Sugar creek were panic-stricken and started at once for the Wabash. About fifty were in the party. When they had gone two or three miles a halt was made, and a council held to decide on the best course. It was near night, and one woman, it is said, more self-possessed than the rest of the crowd, proposed that they should wait in a plum thicket near by until morning, when they could know with more certainty whether Indians were really in pursuit, and have daylight for travel. But she was overruled, and the journey continued through the night. After they passed the creek at the regular cross-



ing, four miles above Milford, the darkness seemed to accelerate their flight. A limited number of horses and wagons were in the company. The sloughs were full of water, the ground wet, and the grass tall and tangled. The men and women carried the smaller children in their arms, and tried hard to keep their families together as they hurried along through the darkness; but there was a good deal of confusion, and their anxiety was greatly excited as they were continually getting separated. There were ten of the Webster family. The oldest daughter, giving out with fatigue, was taken on behind by a peddler who had abandoned his wagon in the settlement. Sometime in the night it was discovered that the Webster family were missing, except the daughter riding with the peddler, and a younger child carried by Clement Thomas. It was easy for imagination to picture them massacred, and that became the general belief as word of their absence was passed around. The fleeing party reached Parish's Grove next morning early; some stopped there, some went to Pine creek, others to the Wabash. Mrs. Webster had fainted, and while the family tarried to restore her, the others, not knowing what had transpired went on, so they became separated. Others coming up the Websters fell in with them, and another company thus formed went to Williamsport. It was sometime before the family were again united.

Micajah Stanley, then a single man, was in his field planting corn. When he quit work at night and went into the settlement he found it abandoned; the cabin doors were open and everything gave evidence of a hasty departure. Mr. Stanley met one of the neighbors, and the two went about together and closed the doors of the houses, and let the calves out of the pens to the cows. Samuel Rush and Samuel McFall were away on a trip to Danville, and the latter on returning followed the refugees and overtook them at Pine creek, with word that there was no occasion for their flight. The men returned in a week to give attention to their crops, but the women staid about two months.

The settlers around Bunkum gathered at that point for mutual protection. No incursion was made by the hostiles into the county, but a party of Pottawatomies taking advantage of the chance to commit depredations when they would be charged to the enemy, entered the dwelling of John Hougland, when his family was away, and destroyed the bedding. George Courtright, Henry Endsley, and two other young men discovered their work and reported it to the trading-post. They and about twenty Pottawatomies set out in pursuit of the marauders. They followed down the river to the mouth of Pike creek—losing the trail before they reached there—and crossing the

river camped for the night. Next day, traveling along the west side to Spring creek and up that stream to the site of Del Rey, they bivouacked in a deserted Indian camp. On the third day they returned home, having had no sight of Indians during the scout. About this time Bunkum was made a rendezvous when the troops were concentrating to march to the Fox river country. Col. Moore's Danville regiment lay there a few days until joined by volunteers and a few regulars from Indiana, whence the command went directly to Hickory creek.

Up to 1833 Iroquois county formed a part of Vermilion county. At that time the latter extended as far north as the Kankakee river, which was the dividing line between Vermilion and Cook counties. On the minutes of a meeting of the county commissioners court at Danville, on the first Monday of September, 1830, is the following entry: "This day Gurdon S. Hubbard presented a petition of sundry inhabitants praying for an election district for one justice of the peace, and for one constable; and that all elections therein be held at the house of Allen Baxter. Ordered, that Isaac Courtright, Allen Baxter and Isadore Chabert be, and they are, appointed judges of the above election district, and that an election be held in said district on the 15th day of November next." It will be remembered that Allen Baxter was Hubbard's farmer and lived at Bunkum.

At the June term, 1831, of the commissioners court it was again "Ordered, that all that tract of country on the waters of Sugar creek and the Iroquois, and their tributary waters, be an election district to be known by the name of Iroquois; and that elections therein be held at the house of Toussant Bleau. Ordered, that Robert Hill, John Hougland and Hezekiah Eastburn be, and they are, hereby appointed judges of election in Iroquois district." The same persons were again appointed judges of election for Iroquois district at the June term, 1832, of the county commissioners court. This was for the general August election. The polling place was changed to the house of Timothy Locy. This man kept an inn at Montgomery. Isaac Courtright served as judge in place of Hill. Jesse Moore and Lemuel John were the clerks of this election. On the first Monday of November of this year was the presidential election at which Andrew Jackson was re-elected, and Martin Van Buren was chosen vice-president. William John, James Cain and John S. Moore were the judges, and Lemuel John and Jesse Moore the clerks. Judge John Pearson and Squire James Newell, of Danville, canvassed the Iroquois district in the interest of "Old Hickory." A special election was held Monday, August 5, 1833, for one justice of the peace, at which Robert Hill received 37 votes.

It is said that a year or two before this an election had been held for two justices, but it was not understood at the time that more than one was to be chosen. Isaac Courtright and Hill were the candidates; the former received the larger number of votes and qualified. When the latter was elected as above stated he had to take his commission dating from the first election.

In 1832 and 1833 Gurdon S. Hubbard was representative in the general assembly from Vermilion county. At that session he procured the passage of an act, approved February 12, 1833, establishing Iroquois county with its present territory and that part of Kankakee county which lies south of the Kankakee river. The law made it the duty of the judge of the circuit court of Vermilion county, whenever he should be satisfied that the new county contained three hundred and fifty inhabitants, to grant an order for the election of three county commissioners, one sheriff, and one coroner to fill those offices until successors should be chosen at the next general election; to fix the day and place for the election, and to designate the judges. We were unable to find this order either on the records or among the papers in the offices at Danville, where, if extant, it ought to be preserved.

The special election for first officers was on Monday, February 24, 1834. Samuel M. Dunn had thirty-three votes for sheriff, and was chosen over Henry Enslen, who had twenty. For county commissioners, John Hougland received fifty-one votes, William Cox forty-seven, Samuel McFall thirty-one, and John S. Moore twenty-four. The first three were elected. Micajah Stanley had forty-four votes for coroner. On March 17 the county commissioners court convened at the house of Robert Hill, below Milford. In pursuance of the act to organize the county they fixed the temporary seat of justice, selecting their present meeting-place. Hugh Newell, a young man from Vermilion county, son of James Newell, twenty-four years of age, who had served under Amos Williams in all the offices at Danville, was on hand, at the suggestion of Williams, when the county was organized, to obtain the appointment of county clerk. He possessed first-class business talents, and by his special training was well qualified for the office. He forthwith received the appointment, gave bond, qualified, and entered upon his duties. It was a most favorable circumstance for the county. At the same term, Samuel Rush having offered to assess the taxable property of the county for the year 1834 for \$5, he was appointed assessor and treasurer with that salary, and thereupon gave the necessary bond. He had the same office the next year, and was allowed \$10. The county was then divided into three road districts. The first embraced all that part lying south of the line



between townships 26 and 27, which runs through the cities of Gilman and Watseka. The second contained all between this line and Beaver creek, and a line from its mouth due west through the county. The third comprised the remainder of the county which extended to the Kankakee river. At the June term in 1834 three election precincts were established, with the same boundaries. The south one was designated "Sugar Creek Precinct," and the polling place was fixed "at the house of John Nilson, late residence of Robert Hill." The north one was called "Kankakee Precinct," and elections were to be held at the house of William Baker, near Kankakee. The middle one was named "Iroquois Precinct," and the house of David Meigs, at Montgomery, the place for holding the elections. The bounds of the districts and of the precincts did not long remain as at any one time established, but were changed or subdivided at short intervals as population increased. At the general election, August 4, 1834, the same county officers were elected as in February, except that William Thomas displaced Micajah Stanley as coroner.

By an act approved February 10, 1835, William Bowen and Joseph Davis, of Vermilion county, and Philip Stanford, of Champaign county, were appointed commissioners to locate the permanent seat of justice of Iroquois county, and to give it a name; for this purpose they were to meet at the house of Col. Thomas Vennum; but they failed to perform any of the duties required of them by this law, and accordingly the representative, Isaac Courtright, who lived close to Bunkum, and was figuring for that locality, procured new legislation on the subject. An act was passed naming Noel Vasseur, of Will county, and George Scarborough and George Barnett, of Vermilion county, as commissioners to make a selection. In case their choice should fall on private land they were required to exact a donation of twenty acres; and in the event of refusal they were then to locate the county-seat on the nearest eligible public land, and to purchase a quarter of a section for a site. Agreeably to the act Barnett and Vasseur met at the house of William Armstrong, in Montgomery, April 11, 1837, and made their report to the county commissioners court on the 15th, selecting 20 acres adjoining Montgomery on the southeast, which was surveyed and platted for the commissioners in August, by James Smith, deputy county surveyor, assisted by Andrew Ritchey, Blewford Davis and Esock Hecock, all under the superintendence of Henry Enslin, county agent. In consideration of the location of the county-seat thereon, this tract was conveyed by warranty deed to the county commissioners and their successors, by Amos White and William Armstrong. The locators called the site "Iroquois." Vasseur was allowed

\$20 compensation for ten-days service, and Barnett \$28 for fourteen days. Isaac Courtright, a stirring and influential man, having an eye to his private interest, had been maneuvering from the beginning to get the location at Montgomery, and when at last it was done, the county commissioners had been meeting at his house, three-fourths of a mile south of Montgomery, since June 1, 1835—nearly two years—having at that date transferred their sessions from Nilson's. The seventh term of this court was held at Courtright's. The county-seat having been now established, after much anxiety and labor on the part of those personally concerned, was destined by the location itself to be of short continuance in that place. The site was without buildings for the use of the county, and none were ever erected; but offices were rented in Montgomery, and there courts were held and business transacted until a removal became imperative. A frame building on lot 10, owned by William Armstrong, was at first rented for the clerk's office, for which he was paid \$2 per month, but afterward Charles M. Thomas furnished an office on the same terms. A room was furnished at different times by Benjamin Lewis and by John and Amos White for sessions of the circuit court. One of the Whites kept the tavern.

The notable event in the judicial history of this period was the first trial for murder, and the hanging of Joseph Thomason, who gave the alias Joseph F. Morris. The trial took place on the 16th, 17th and 18th days of May; and the execution on June 10, 1836.

On December 20, 1836, occurred the most remarkable change of weather ever recorded. Its suddenness and severity are fully attested by many living witnesses. The water that everywhere covered the ground froze sufficiently in five minutes to bear a man. Many assert that the change was even more sudden, and that, improbable as it may seem, the "strong wind threw the water into waves, which froze as they stood." Early in the day nearly a foot of snow lay on the ground. The air turned warm and a slow rain set in and continued several hours, causing a heavy fog. There was a thaw; in a little while a slush was over all the surface, and the streams were out of their banks. Men were laboring about their homes with left-off coats. About four o'clock in the afternoon a black cloud appeared in the west, and in a few moments overspread the sky. A gale of wind, sharp and piercing, came sweeping over the prairies, and almost instantaneously the face of the country was a solid sheet of ice. This extraordinary event was rendered more signal by a tragic occurrence which was discussed at the time throughout the Northwest, and stirred the profoundest sensibilities of the people. Many accounts have been given to the world of the painful death of Thomas Frame by freezing, and of the exquisite suf-

ferings and narrow escape of his companion, James H. Hildreth ; but none that the writer has seen has correctly detailed the circumstances, and few spared Ben Burson, a man wholly innocent, from the odium of the most atrocious heartlessness that could ever disgrace our humanity. Since our version of the affair is to some extent contradictory of what has gone before through the press, it is proper that we should state the sources of our information. The principals are dead, but if actors in the later events, who had every opportunity to learn directly from the survivor himself all the earlier facts, are trustworthy and authoritative, then our relation cannot be wholly devoid of credit. Clement Thomas, of Ash Grove, whose recollection of remote history is not excelled, if equaled, by that of any other person whom we have met, lived at the time near Milford, and was one of four young men who removed Frame's body from the place on the prairie where he perished. While Hildreth was under care at Robert Williams', he saw him nearly every day and attended him frequently at night for several weeks. Dr. A. M. C. Hawes, of Georgetown, rendered Hildreth surgical treatment. To these gentleman we are indebted for the personal features of this narrative.

Thomas Frame was a son of Col. James Frame, who lived on Spring creek in the present limits of Onarga township, about five miles northeast of the village. He had been to the registrar's office at Danville, where he entered the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 15, T. 26, R. 14, on the 19th. Returning home on the morning of the 20th, he left Bicknell's, on the north fork of the Vermilion, in company with the fellow-traveler just named. The latter lived near Georgetown and was going to Chicago. There was a striking contrast in the amount of clothing worn by these two men. Frame was thinly clad—a most singular circumstance, considering the length of his journey and the season of the year. Fortunately for Hildreth his prudence had supplied him with an exceptionally large outfit of garments. Both rode mettled horses. Frame's had some reputation for speed. They journeyed along during the day through the misty rain, imbibing freely from a flask which they had brought with them to enliven their spirits and reduce the discomforts of their travel. They were proceeding on the Ash Grove road when the change already described took place. They urged forward with all possible haste and reached Burson (now called Fountain) creek about sundown. The banks of the creek were overflowed; the stream was deep and broad; and much ice had formed along the sides. Finding it impossible to cross they decided to return to Bicknell's, and began to retrace their way. They had not gone far when darkness



came on. The cold was growing more and more intense. They were stupefied by their potations and bewildered by their situation. The labor and difficulty of travel kept on increasing, and the prospect of reaching any house becoming more and more gloomy, and at last altogether hopeless, they turned away from the road, leaving it to the right, and wandering off a short distance, halted on a pond in the midst of the prairie. From this place they did not stir. The storm raged. Increasing cold lashed into cutting and stinging tongues of frost by the pitiless blast, to be endured through a night longer than life, was an extremity to make the stoutest heart quail. The fading out of hope followed close upon the deepening shades. Shelter must be found or the men perish. They agreed to kill their horses. Hildreth was first to kill Frame's, and when that became cold Frame was to kill Hildreth's. They had but one knife, and that belonged to Hildreth. Accordingly Frame's horse was killed by severing a vein in the neck. The carcass was opened but not disemboweled. Frame lay next it with his arms and legs thrust into it, and Hildreth snug behind him with his hands and feet also inside. As the night wore on Hildreth, recovering from the effects of the strong drink, became convinced that Frame must perish, and began to reason that as he himself was freezing, he, too, would perish if he should not save his horse to bear him to a habitation when the morning should appear. His knife was in his pocket and he determined not to sacrifice his horse. At last, the carcass becoming cold, Frame suggested that the other horse be killed. Hildreth inquired what he had done with the knife, and Frame replied that it was not about him. Hildreth added that it must be lost. After this Frame lay still and said no more. About sunrise he expired in great agony. Hildreth, now badly frozen, after much difficulty succeeded in mounting his horse, and deserying a house distant about a mile and three-quarters to the northeast, started in that direction. The place where they had passed the night lies between Burson creek proper, and a branch which diverges from the east side about two and one-half miles above the mouth. Ben Burson lived on the east bank of the branch, which placed this tributary between his house and Hildreth, who was approaching from the southwest. The stream was about 300 yards wide; the current deep and running swiftly; and the sides were frozen over. Hildreth rode up and halloed. Burson came out but was powerless to assist him. The current was full of anchor-ice and forging down in a heavy torrent. So he advised him to try to get to Robert Chess' on the south side of Mud creek. Burson creek, which had turned the two back the night before, traversed the route to that place. On reaching it he searched

along up the stream for a crossing place, which he at last found where there was an ice jam, over which he forced his horse, the animal being rough-shod. Instead then of striking for Chess', he followed downstream through the woods, where he found, some distance below the junction of the branch with the main stream, another ice jam on which he crossed to the other side. He had by no means now far to go to reach Burson's house. Once there, Burson helped him in, and then the latter rode to Asa Thomas', about a mile south of Milford, and gave notice of what had transpired. Clement Thomas, Daniel and Benjamin Mershon, and Levi Williams, all young men, set out for Burson's. Arrived there, they found the creek frozen clear across. The ice was not strong in the middle, but with the aid of a slab they got over. Taking a hand-sled from Burson's, they had no trouble to follow Hildreth's track, and were soon at the spot which witnessed the sufferings of that terrible night. Frame's body was taken to Burson's house; next day word was sent to Col. Frame, and on the second day he removed it home. Robert Williams, living near Milford, knowing that Burson had no conveniences for taking care of Hildreth, sent a team the next day and brought him to his house, where he was kept four or five weeks. His mother came up from Georgetown as soon as the news could reach her by mail. Dr. A. M. C. Hawes, of the same place, amputated all his toes, and all his fingers and thumbs, except one of each of the two last named extremities. The locality of this event is in the northeast corner of Fountain Creek township, on or near section 1, town 24, range 13.

Alvan Gilbert, from Ligget's Grove, on the north fork of the Vermilion, was driving hogs to Chicago. When the storm came up he was about four miles south of Milford, or near the place since known as the "Old Red Pump." He left his drove, and with his hands was able to reach Asa Thomas'. Many of the hogs froze. It was a week before he could resume the drive.

In 1838 an interesting contest occurred for representative to the general assembly. Isaac Courtright had served one term, having been elected in 1836. Montgomery being within three miles of the county line, and far removed from that section whose physical features would for many years (and as was then supposed, would forever), make it the center of population, it was understood from the outset that a removal could not long be deferred. This year the issue was made by the people. The democrats were in a large majority. Courtright, next to Hugh Newell, was the chief of the party. In this campaign he was a candidate for reelection. But his known hostility to the removal of the seat of justice to any other

place than Texas, where he owned property, arrayed his political associates generally with his opponents in the support of Squire Lewis Roberts, of Ash Grove, who was a whig, and deservedly popular. The latter was elected, and procured an enabling act for the relocation of the county-seat. As there will be no further occasion to refer to Mr. Roberts' public life, an incident connected with his service in the legislature may be recorded here. At the session of 1836-7 an internal improvement bill was passed. To satisfy the counties which did not directly share the benefits of the measure by having a canal or railroad built through them, an appropriation was made to such counties, to be paid to their agents by the fund commissioners. The total amount credited to Iroquois county was \$3,133, a handsome sum at that time for a new county. Mr. Roberts was appointed to receive the money and execute vouchers for the same. On March 22 he paid over \$2,833 of these funds, leaving a balance of \$300 still to be transferred. He was asked by the fund commissioners to draw the remainder, and he did so, while having yet several weeks to stay at the capital. For want of a better place for keeping the money he put it into a small box and concealed it under his bed, from which place it was stolen. At the December term of the commissioners court, he not having accounted for the deficit, the clerk, Hugh Newell, was directed to employ an attorney to bring suit against him for the recovery of the money. It was finally considered that he was not liable for the loss, and the matter was dropped.

In 1836 the people lost their heads in the rage for speculation. A great system of public improvements had been devised, and chimerical private schemes, on a grand scale, were pressed and advertised. Paper towns were platted upon eligible sites, and the proprietors confidently wrote up immense fortunes. All this prosperity was only apparent, and the first contrary breath burst the bubble. Iroquois county did not escape a certain development of this lunacy. Much enterprise was displayed by several in their efforts to pocket the county town. The seat of justice was the great prize. During the year eight towns were laid out, and in the following spring one other. Two of these — Concord and Milford — had a prospect for settlement; for the latter, and perhaps the former, was actually begun. Plato, Savanna, Middleport, Point Pleasant and Iroquois City were laid out in season to receive the golden egg. Elsewhere is shown the location of Plato and the ado that was created in its name. Savanna was situated about two miles north of Milford, on the state road, "in the heart of a fine, rich country," and (as the



term 'savanna' imports) "on beautiful, gently rolling, dry and rich prairie," so we are informed by the certificate attached to the plat by one of the owners, Hugh Newell. This was even so; but with these advantages there were not attractions enough to build a city in a day; nor to lay a stone until the child of great hopes — the county-seat — should first be rebaptized on that spot. Newell was, without doubt, the projector, and Solomon Barbee the proprietor, as he owned the land on which the town was surveyed. After Middleport was selected for the county town this plat was vacated by act of the legislature. Burlington fully answered the description of what was for years afterward synonymous in the east with any project having no real foundation, but conceived in fraud — a "western enterprise." James Davis, of Indiana, discovering an "eligible site" about two miles south of Milford, on land belonging to Asa Thomas, suggested the propriety of making a fortune while fortunes were to be made, seeing it was so easy of accomplishment as the laying out of a town. Accordingly, it was surveyed and platted. Davis went to New York and sold lots, representing that the town was building and in a thriving condition. Afterward some of the purchasers came to view their western property, doubtless reckoning high on its advanced value, especially such as held "corner lots." Asa and William Thomas were the only occupants of the "village." When the expectant lot-owners beheld the naked area of this "peg town" of 60 acres, they were covered with stunning surprise and chagrin. Waiting just long enough to call down a shower of anathemas on the rascally head of Davis, they returned to New York "wiser, if not better men." Iroquois City was an heir-expectant to the county town; it was laid off on the north bank of the Iroquois, opposite Texas, by Hiram Pearson. When the proprietor failed of a fruition of hope the plat was vacated. Texas was also a competing point. Point Pleasant was laid out at the confluence of Spring creek with the Iroquois river, in the acute angle formed by those streams, by Nelson R. Norton and Smith Northrup. Norton was the "solid" man in this venture in which there was nothing to lose, and his partner was the procurer. At that time it was impossible to see that this would not at an early day be a center of commerce and the civilized arts. It had every advantage of water communication; was below Middleport and Bunkum, and, of course, would take the cream of every thing that came up the river. It was fertile with aboriginal associations, having been the seat of an Indian village; even the rude contrivances over the graves were yet in complete order and preservation. These, however, were not to be blindly relied on for

drawing a teeming population. The county-seat was also coveted by the proprietors, and all the possibilities of this paper town were staked on this grand object. But it failed. Middleport was more fortunate. Hugh Newell having his attention first directed to the subject by Micajah Stanley, for a long time kept this point, as well as the adjacent country, an object of deliberation and careful personal inspection. He entered the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 31, T. 27, R. 12, August 27, 1836; and his means being limited, he interested Jacob A. Whiteman to join him in entering the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 32, which was done September 29. Austin Cole, of Danville, had entered on the 21st the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the same quarter section. Some transfers took place before the county-seat was removed there. It was laid out by Newell and Whiteman in December, 1836.

As before related, Lewis Roberts had procured the passage of an act enabling the county to relocate the seat of justice. Merritt L. Covell, John Moore and Cheney Thomas, of McLean county, were named as commissioners charged with this duty. They were to meet at Middleport on the first Monday in June, 1839, or within thirty days thereafter, and to fix upon a location. If they selected private property, they were required to obtain from the owner at least 20 acres of land as a donation to the county; but if the selection was in a town or village, then not less than fifty lots of an average value with the remaining ones, for which, in either case, they should take a deed in fee-simple to the county. On the 13th Messrs. Moore and Covell met at Middleport, and after subscribing the required oath, entered upon their labors. On the 17th they rendered their report to Jonathan Wright, Adam Karr and Samuel McFall, county commissioners, declaring the county-seat removed from Montgomery and permanently located at Middleport. For their services each of the commissioners was allowed \$33. They obtained from Hugh Newell Jacob A. Whiteman, Jacob Troup and James Smith a deed to 100 town lots. Most of these were subsequently sold and conveyed by Micajah Stanley, and after him a few by George B. Joiner, for the county, at prices ranging from \$5 to \$40. They furnished a much needed revenue, and contributed toward the erection of county buildings.

The growing necessities of the public business dictated the building of a court-house and a jail, but the county was too weak financially to accomplish much in that direction. The commissioners decided to begin the jail first, as that was more urgently demanded. Hugh Newell was appointed agent to let the contracts, but this had not been done when he died, May 8, 1841, and his place as agent

was supplied by the appointment of Micajah Stanley. Meantime the offices had been removed to Middleport, and sessions of the circuit court held there. The last term of this court, as probably that of the county commissioners, held in Montgomery, was in September, 1839. A frame building in Middleport, belonging to Newell, had been rented by the county. The second floor was used for a court-room. Office rooms were also rented of Garrett Eoff. James Crawford took the contract for building the jail. It was a hewed log structure, about 16×20 feet square, and cost \$159.30 when ready for the reception of occupants. It was finished in the winter of 1842-3, nearly two years having transpired from the letting of the contract. The door was fastened on the outside with an ordinary padlock. The floor was made of square timbers laid together, on which the walls of the house were raised. After becoming seasoned some of them were loose, and it was only necessary to slip one either way to have a place of egress. The breaking of this jail was rather a pastime. It is told that the prisoners used facetiously to complain that the swine worked their way under the floor after the crumbs of bread that fell through, and rooted them out of jail. Pancake, a faithful infractor of the law, charged "Garry" Eoff, the keeper, one night when he was leaving, to prop the door well, as the hogs were in the habit of rooting it open and getting his corn-bread. It is not said which this sarcasm reflected against most—the jail or the bread. No other place for the confinement of criminals was provided in Iroquois county until 1858.

At the March term, 1843, it was ordered that a court-house be built on the public square in Middleport. Certain dimensions, together with the general features of a plan, were specified, and a committee named to procure a plan and to estimate the cost. Acting on the report rendered that day, the commissioners, on the 10th of April, appointed Lorenzo D. Northrup, Charles Gardner, Isaac Comtright, Samuel Harper and John Harwood a building committee. The dimensions were slightly changed. The building was to be 37½ feet square, of two twelve-foot stories; and the committee was limited to \$1,506, fifty-two town lots in Middleport, and the saline land in Vermilion county for its inclosure. The town lots included those which had already been sold. \$800 were appropriated from the treasury to begin the work. The house was of brick, 40×40 feet, with a square roof, surmounted by a belfry, which was never furnished with a bell. The first floor was laid with brick and kept covered with sawdust to render it noiseless; this was the court-room. The offices and jury rooms were up-stairs.





*Micajah Stanley*

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By the fire of October 16, 1866, a part of the county records, on which we have thus far depended for information, were destroyed. The hiatus extends to September 23, 1861, about eighteen and one-half years. Through this period we are as a traveler that wanders in a desert.

The saline land above referred to was a part of the salines situated in Vermilion county, and which were granted to the two counties by the state in 1837, for the purpose of building a bridge across each the Vermilion and Iroquois rivers. When Illinois was a territory the salt springs on these lands were considered valuable for the manufacture of salt, and were reserved from sale and leased by the government; but the management of them proving unprofitable and troublesome, the lands were ceded to the state. Salt-making at these springs was abandoned many years ago. The amount of land apportioned to Iroquois county we have not been able to learn, but it was inconsiderable. Mr. Stanley states that he was empowered to sell the land, and that he went to Vermilion county and exchanged a tract (either 40 or 80 acres) for a horse, which was disposed of in Chicago, and the proceeds applied on the court-house. Joseph B. Dean had the first contract to lay the brick. In June, 1845, the walls had been reared about four feet; all the funds on hand had been expended, and work was discontinued. George B. Joiner and William Pierce were now appointed commissioners to superintend the further construction. New contracts were made, and it is thought that Aaron Hoel and his son burned the rest of the brick, and that Spencer Case did the mason work. The Hebrews were required to make brick without straw,—a thing scarcely more difficult than this committee had to do when it was forced to build a court-house without money. They disbursed county orders till these were so depreciated toward the close, that they paid them out at half their face value. The contractors who accepted them were compelled to negotiate them at 75 per cent discount.

To encourage settlement, public lands were exempted from taxation five years from the date of entry. While this was, no doubt, a judicious course, it can be understood that the resources of the public treasury were so disproportioned to a population at most small in number, it was nearly impossible for the people to proceed with public improvements. The building was inclosed in 1846, and near the end of the year it was first used for holding court; but it was not completed and furnished, and the offices occupied until the next summer. It would be interesting to note the difficulties and delays by which the completion of the first court-house was retarded four years,



were the facts accessible, but it can now only be said that it cost a patient and protracted effort, and in the end left an onerous debt. A special act was passed February 16, 1847, authorizing the county commissioners to borrow a sum of money not to exceed \$1,000, to finish the court-house, or to redeem orders issued for that purpose, for which they might execute notes or bonds with interest at a rate not over 12 per cent. In 1851 another act was procured empowering the county court to levy a special tax of one mill upon every one hundred dollars' worth of taxable property, which was, when collected, to be kept as a separate fund for the payment of debts incurred in building the court-house, and if any surplus remained, it was to be applied to the erection of a jail.

The constitution of 1848 did away with probate justices and county commissioners' courts, and provided for county courts. The general assembly, at its first session after the adoption of the constitution, enacted a law (February, 1849) establishing county courts with probate jurisdiction, and providing that two associate justices of the peace having county jurisdiction, to be elected by each county at large, should sit with the county judge, and that the court, as thus organized, should possess and exercise the same powers as had belonged to the old commissioners' court. The judge, sitting by himself, constituted a court for the transaction of probate business. These officers were to be elected every four years.

John Chamberlain was the first county judge of Iroquois county, and was elected to that office in November, 1849, filling it three consecutive terms. He was a man of strongly marked personal character; possessed decided convictions and commanding ability; and as an orator and lawyer, superior powers. By conferring freely with men he always had so exact a knowledge of current popular feeling that it seemed as if he had a prescience of events. His habits in this particular were remarkable enough to require mention. With rare subtlety he drew from others what they would conceal, without compromising his own information. This was done with diplomatic art, and scarcely left a sensible impression of his mastery. The advantages so gained he did not fail to make an element of success in objects which forever remained in the custody of his own consciousness. He was dark and difficult to fathom; mistrustful of men, diligent in detail, long headed, slow to act, but eminently energetic and unshrinking when the time of action came. His sagacity was always equal to the occasion. In private life he displayed the traits and practiced the parts of genuine benevolence. He was tall of stature, and of striking appearance. When he undertook the control of the

county government its fiscal affairs were in a deplorable condition. County orders were bringing but thirty-seven and a half cents on the dollar. The judge addressed himself with zeal to the restoration of the county credit. In less than four years under his administration the whole debt was redeemed, and orders were at a premium for taxes; but they fell again somewhat below par, when the liability of \$50,000 was incurred in aid of the Peoria & Oquawka Eastern Extension railroad,—a measure against which he opposed an earnest, vigorous, but unavailing remonstrance.

In 1846 Micajah Stanley went to the legislature from this county. The navigation of the Kankakee and Iroquois rivers had excited much interest and been warmly discussed and advocated since any considerable settlement had been made in the county. The feeling had become so earnest that this question was the staple of thought and conversation—the single idea of the public mind. Mr. Stanley brought forward a bill chartering “The Kankakee and Iroquois Navigation and Manufacturing Company,” which was passed and approved February 15, 1847, granting this corporation full control of the improvement of the two rivers for navigation, and also all the use and control of the water-power thereon for the term of fifty years. Several amendatory acts have taken effect, but none of them changing the original powers granted. Fifty thousand dollars were raised by stock subscriptions and expended on a dam and lock at Wilmington, which was swept away by high water the next spring after it was completed. By a law in force February 12, 1849, the county court of Iroquois county was granted power to levy and cause to be collected a tax not to exceed \$1 upon each \$100 worth of taxable property for the purpose of improving the Kankakee and Iroquois rivers, provided that upon thirty-days notice previous to a general election a majority of the votes cast upon the question should be in favor of the tax. We do not know that any money was raised in this way, and it is doubtful if the question was submitted to the people, Judge Chamberlain, though favorable to the improvement of these streams, and taking an active interest in the design, being, as is evidenced by other acts of his, opposed to such a plan for raising funds in the then exhausted condition of the county, and the low state of its credit. The company made the Kankakee navigable by slack-water to Wilmington, connecting that city with the Illinois and Michigan canal. Then the work slumbered some time, so far as the general public was concerned. Again, in the summer of 1862, fresh interest was aroused in the project, and citizens of Iroquois and Kankakee counties, and delegates from

Newton county, Indiana, held a public meeting at Middleport, on June 16, at which business committees were appointed, one of which was to examine and report on the subject preparatory to raising stock. This was composed of Dr. C. F. McNeill, chairman; George B. Joiner, Michael Hogle and John Wilson of Iroquois county; James McGrew and E. A. Webster, of Kankakee county; G. W. Spitler, of Jasper county, Indiana, and A. B. Condit, of Newton county, Indiana. Condit was a practical engineer, and was appointed by Gov. Wright, of Indiana, in 1853, to do the engineering for the draining of the swamp lands in White, Jasper and Newton counties. It is stated in the "Middleport Press" of that date, that he explained, by diagrams and otherwise, the practicability, at a very small cost, of making the rivers navigable at the driest season of the year, by slack-water, not only up to Middleport, but to Rensselaer, Indiana, by making a reservoir of Beaver lake. He further advocated the feasibility of a navigable eastern outlet by way of the Pinkamink and a seven-mile canal over a flat surface to the head of the Monon, and down that stream and the Tippecanoe river into the Wabash and Erie canal. At the meeting of July 2, the chairman read an exhaustive report showing the stage of the work, and also what was further required to be done, besides demonstrating its practicability and importance. But notwithstanding the enthusiasm of the hour, the absorbing and gigantic demands of the war coming suddenly in the form of calls for 600,000 volunteers, caused this local enterprise to be forgotten. "The Kankakee Company," an association of Massachusetts capitalists, of which Gov. Claflin is president, purchased the franchises and property of the old company, and are slowly prosecuting the extension of navigation on the Kankakee toward the state line. For a while after the building of the Chicago, Danville & Vincennes railroad the question of improving the Iroquois river was generally thought to be forever quieted, but in the winter of 1879-80 the agitation was again revived, and the attention of Hon. G. L. Fort, representative from the eighth congressional district, was invited to the subject with a view to bringing it before congress; and petitions were circulated asking an appropriation for the work. In 1878 Mr. Fort introduced a bill in congress appropriating \$50,000 for the survey and improvement of the Kankakee, but the amount was reduced to \$10,000, with which an examination was made. In 1879 there was an appropriation of \$28,000, and in the fall the river was again surveyed from Wilmington to a point one mile and a half above Momence, under the direction of Maj. Jared A. Smith, of the United States engineer corps.



In 1851 an attempt was made to form the county of Kankakee from Will and Iroquois. A law was enacted defining the boundaries and establishing the new county, subject to a vote of the people of the two counties to be affected, which was to be taken at a special election on the first Tuesday in April. The vote in Iroquois county stood 192 for and 554 against the proposition. More than three-fourths of the minority vote was polled in Limestone and Polk precincts, which were situated on the Kankakee river. The attempt was renewed in the fall of 1852, when petitions were again circulated and signed, and on the assembling of the legislature they were laid before that body. The law relating to the formation of new counties required notice by advertisement and otherwise before the general assembly should act upon the petition, which notice it was charged had never been legally given. It further required that the lines of division or curtailment should be particularly described in the petition. The proposed new county, with the metes and bounds set forth in the petition not meeting with favor among the members of the legislature, the southern boundary was changed in the petition and fixed on a line farther north. A law was enacted February 11, 1853, establishing the county of Kankakee with the amended boundaries, provided that a majority of the voters of each of the counties of Will and Iroquois voting on the question should vote in favor of the measure. William Parish and James Lamb, of Iroquois county, were designated as commissioners to receive the return of the votes of their county. A special election was held on Tuesday, April 5, 1853. At the time of the election the Illinois Central railroad was in course of construction, and a great force of laborers were employed at that point in excavating and quarrying. This floating population was used at the polls in Limestone precinct, voting in phalanx for the new county. It was charged that irregularities were committed in the organization of the election board. In 1851 this precinct had cast 65 votes for the new county, and 27 against it, making a total of 92, which was said to be, and probably was, the full strength. At this election there were 360 votes polled, and all in favor of the proposed county. When the poll-lists were returned it was found that the judges and clerks had made no certificate. In consequence of the invalidity the return was thrown out by the canvassers, when the vote in the county stood 367 against, to 290 for, the new county. George W. Byrns, justice of the peace, who returned the poll-book and was chosen to assist in the canvass, refused to sign the certificate declaring the result. It was proposed by Byrns and others to procure a writ of mandamus to compel the board to accept the return, whereupon

Judge Chamberlain and the associate justice, William Pierce, sued out an injunction restraining the county clerk, Amos O. Whiteman, from making returns of the election, and the commissioners from receiving them. The regular April term of the circuit court should have begun on the 26th, when the case would have come up for hearing; but the judge, Hon. Hugh Henderson, did not arrive, and so ordered a special term for July. May 9 was the time fixed by law for the election in Kankakee county to locate the seat of justice and elect officers, in case that the county should be established by the votes of the people. A. O. Whiteman, writing on this subject, says: "After the issue and service of the injunction, Orson Beebee (afterward judge of Kankakee county), Dr. Lyons, S. S. Vale, and several others, leading men of Momence and vicinity, came to Middleport and examined all the poll-lists of said election (including what purported to be a poll-book from Limestone precinct), and after due deliberation and legal advice from J. A. Whiteman, S. A. Washington, and others of the Iroquois county bar, were of the opinion that all would be right if they should proceed to organize the county of Kankakee." He further adds: "In May, a deputation consisting of Hon. William Pierce, Hon. Joseph Thomas and others whom I do not now remember, visited Springfield for the purpose of an interview with the attorney-general, Governor Joel A. Matteson, and Hon. T. H. Campbell, secretary of state, the result of which I do not know." The election was held on the day mentioned, and Kankakee county was fully organized. Taking into consideration all the circumstances, and the excitement having cooled off, the complainants thought it best to dismiss the injunction, which was accordingly done on their motion. Through the informal proceedings described, a part of Iroquois county was detached and Kankakee finally established; and the people of the latter only narrowly succeeding had been obliged to forego the attempt to get a larger strip of territory. It had always been a favorite object with that county to get the remainder of township 29, and in 1867 an act was procured attaching it to Kankakee, if a majority of the voters of each county should consent. Accordingly an election was held May 14, 1867, at which the result in Iroquois county was 513 votes for annexation, and 1,095 against, thus defeating the scheme.

"The first efforts seriously made to construct railroads"\* in the state of Illinois, was in the winter of 1832-3, when the legislature passed several charters to incorporate companies. The one for the

\*Ford's History of Illinois, p. 166.

Central railroad, which was to extend from Peru to Cairo, was granted to Darius B. Holbrooke, a friend and partner of Judge Sidney Breese, by which latter gentleman this undertaking was first brought, through a newspaper publication, into public notice. No stock was taken in this company, and at the session of the legislature of 1836-7 that body inaugurated a system of internal improvements, which was made to include the Illinois Central railroad, the whole to be under the control and at the expense of the state. Mr. Holbrooke's charter was, consequently, repealed. Over a million dollars were spent on this single improvement when the financial revulsion of 1837 came on and bankrupted the state, and forced an abandonment of all these works. Mr. Holbrooke asked and obtained a renewal of his charter, by which was granted to him and his associates all the work that had been done on the line, provided that he should build the road. Judge Breese, then a senator of the United States, from Illinois, brought forward a bill from the committee of the public lands of the senate, conferring exclusive preëmption privileges on Holbrooke to all the lands on each side of the road at \$1.25 per acre, for a period of ten years. Mr. Douglas denounced it as a gigantic scheme for speculation, and demonstrated that it would be injurious to the interest of the state. He then introduced in the senate the bill, which finally passed, granting to the state every alternate section within six miles of the road on each side of the main track and branches, designated by even numbers, to aid in its construction from the southern terminus of the Illinois and Michigan canal to Cairo, with a branch to Chicago, and another via Galena to a point on the Mississippi river opposite Dubuque, Iowa. For any lands embraced in this donation which might have been sold or preëmpted, the company was entitled to receive an equal amount to be selected from the public lands within fifteen miles on either side of the line by agents to be appointed by the governor. The lands reserved by the government within the six-mile limits were not to be sold for less than double the minimum price of the public lands. The road was to be commenced simultaneously at both extremities of the main line, and continued therefrom until completed; and if not completed within ten years the grant should be forfeited. The inside history of this bill in detail, as related by Mr. Douglas himself, in a small work on constitutional and party questions, to which we are indebted for some of our facts, is of no little interest; but we can refer only to a single incident. When introduced in congress it met with sufficient opposition in the house to defeat it by two votes, which proved in the end, and to the great



satisfaction of all parties, with a single exception perhaps, a fortunate circumstance, owing to a certain fraudulent proceeding, probably of some engrossing clerk of the Illinois legislature, acting in the interest of Holbrooke, which transaction was discovered and exposed by Mr. Douglas himself. He then procured from Holbrooke a release of his charter for the road, which the recent discovery had shown to be necessary, and had it recorded in the office of the secretary of state at Springfield. The bill had received the opposition of the delegations from Alabama and Mississippi, and he felt that their coöperation was necessary. The Mobile railroad was then building, but had failed for want of means, and Mr. Douglas went to Alabama and held a conference with the president and directors, proposing to obtain for them a grant of lands by making it a part of his bill. This was readily accepted, and he quietly departed for Washington, desirous of not being seen in those parts, lest his influence upon the action of the legislatures of Alabama and Mississippi should be revealed to the senators and representatives in congress from those states. Before he left it had been arranged for the directors to procure from those legislatures instructions to their congressional delegations to support the bill. When the instructions reached them at Washington they were bewildered and in no good humor. It was amusing to Douglas when they came to him for his assistance. Concealing his secret gratification, and assuming an attitude of independence toward them till he could seem to yield, he at length consented to a proposition to amend his bill so as to make a grant to each of the states of Alabama and Mississippi, in the same manner as it did to Illinois. It then became a law, September 20, 1850. It had been ably advocated in the house by the representative from this district, the Hon. John Wentworth. This explains how the two southern states came to be included; as it also revives the memory of the fact that Mr. Douglas was the author and master-spirit of the measure. In 1859, he said: "If any man ever passed a bill, I did that one. I did the whole work, and was devoted to it for two entire years. The people of Illinois are beginning to forget it. It is said Douglas never made a speech upon it." And again: "The Illinois bill was the pioneer bill, and went through without a dollar, pure, uncorrupt, and is the only one that has worked well." \* The grant was accepted, and on February 10, 1851, the act passed by the Illinois legislature incorporating the Central company was approved by the governor and became a law.

\* "Constitutional and Party Questions," p. 199.

The incorporators were Robert Schuyler, George Griswold, Gouverneur Morris, Franklin Haven, David A. Neal, Robert Rantoul, Jr., Jonathan Sturgis, George W. Ludlow, John F. A. Sanford, Henry Grinnell, Leroy Wiley, Joseph W. Alsop, and William H. Aspinwall. These gentlemen, exclusive of the one last named, were the first board of directors. The interest of the state was protected by appropriate guarantees that the road would be built, and the completion of the main line limited to four years. Near the close of this period the time was, without necessity, extended six months. The branches were to be finished in six years. All the work that had been done on this line by the state, and all the rights of every nature which it had acquired, were transferred to this company by its charter. The lands granted were to be exempt from taxation till sold and conveyed. It was afterward claimed that this provision of the law was retarding the development of the country wherever these lands were situated, as purchasers, instead of paying for their tracts and getting deeds from the company, kept renewing their contracts, thus evading taxation, and in 1873 a law was enacted requiring the trustees of the road to offer all unsold lands at public auction once every six months. The lands of this company were sold at prices ranging from \$5 to \$25 per acre, according to quality and location. The sale of lands within the six and fifteen-mile limits of the road was suspended by the commissioner of the general land office, September 20, 1850, by order of President Fillmore. Those granted to the Central Railroad Company were selected by David A. Neal, assisted some of the time by Col. R. B. Mason, the chief engineer, and the whole grant, save an inconsiderable amount, was certified, March 13, 1852; and the remainder of the lands within the railroad limits, which had been withdrawn from sale, were soon after placed in market by executive proclamation. In return for the grants and franchises conferred, the company was required to pay semi-annually into the state treasury, on the first Mondays of June and December of each year, a sum of money equal to seven per cent of the gross proceeds of the road, which revenue was to be applied to the payment of the interest-bearing indebtedness of the state until it should be extinguished. The constitution of 1870 makes this a perpetual obligation, and provides that after the extinction of the state debt the revenue from this source shall be used to defray the ordinary expenses of the state government. The amount of this revenue to the state of Illinois has been, to the end of 1879, over \$8,000,000.

At the time the first annual meeting of the company was held—

March, 1851 — there were but ninety-eight miles of railroad in the state, and this was laid with strap iron. The first engineering party was organized in Chicago, on May 21, 1851, and commenced preliminary surveys of the Chicago branch, making that city a point of departure, and by the middle of summer seven other parties had been organized and were in the field: at Freeport, La Salle, Bloomington, Decatur, Cairo and Urbana; and the whole line was surveyed and located before the end of the year. The work of construction was begun at Cairo and La Salle about Christmas. The first contract for grading was made March 15, 1852, for the division between Chicago and Calumet, and that section was opened for travel by the middle of May. A long contest ensued with the city of Chicago for the privilege of entering the corporation and locating its line along the shore of Lake Michigan; and at last, on June 14, the city council passed an ordinance granting permission. On May 15, 1853, the first sixty miles, from La Salle to Bloomington, was opened, and the company commenced operating the road on its own account. In March the Chicago branch was extended to Blue Island, from which point a line of stages were run by Chipman and Wilcox to Middleport and Danville, furnishing the only regular communication which the county then had with the metropolis. The railroad was rapidly extended during the year, and just at its close was finished to Del Rey, which point the cars reached but little in advance of the new year. The company designed building machine-shops there, but land could not be obtained on liberal terms, and so they erected them at Champaign. We subjoin the following facts relating to the completion of the Chicago branch, which were first published in the Chicago "Daily Press," of November, 1856:

"Dates of opening by sections: Chicago to Calumet, 14 miles, May 15, 1852. Calumet to Kankakee, 42 miles, July 14, 1853. Kankakee to Spring Creek, 31 miles, December 2, 1853. Spring Creek to Pera, 22 miles, May 28, 1854. Pera to Urbana (Champaign), 20 miles, July 24, 1854. Urbana to Mattoon, 44 miles, June 25, 1855. Mattoon to Centralia, 77 miles, September 27, 1856. The main line, from Cairo to La Salle, 309 miles in length, was finished January 8, 1855. The Galena branch, from La Salle to Dunleith, 147 miles, was completed June 12, 1855." The total cost of the entire line was \$36,500,000. The capital stock of the company is \$29,000,000, and the debt \$10,500,000. The general offices are at No. 78 Michigan avenue, Chicago. This road, by its network of branches and by its connections, furnishes direct communication with both the south and the northwest. Daily passenger trains are run between Chicago and



New Orleans, 915 miles, without change of cars, a transfer boat being used on the Ohio. St. Louis has, by this route, direct connection south as well as north. Between Chicago and St. Louis through trains are run, and Peoria and Keokuk also are reached without change. From Cairo connections are made with all principal points in the south. The company controls, by lease, the route to Sioux City, thus providing for Dakota travel and emigration. This is one of the best and most safely managed roads in the country. No other public improvement in Iroquois county has done so much for the material and intellectual advancement of her people as the Illinois Central railroad. It was opened at a time when attention began to be largely awakened in the east to the subject of making western homes, and the rich country is brought into communication with the world, invited great numbers of settlers from the sterile lands and jostling population of New York and New England. The uniting of eastern culture with western sinew has produced most positive and important benefits to the county.

The Peoria & Oquawka Eastern Extension railroad was constructed east from Peoria. In 1859 it was styled Logansport, Peoria & Burlington, a few years later Toledo, Peoria & Warsaw, which name it retained until the transfer early in the present year, when it was changed to Toledo, Peoria & Western. The charter from the state bore date February 12, 1849, and has been several times amended. This important railway was built and put in operation in sections at considerable intervals, and its present line and connecting branches were not completed until 1871. The main line itself was not finished between Peoria and Warsaw but a little earlier. The citizens of this county early displayed a practical interest in the undertaking, by voting, under the law of 1849 providing for a general system of railroad incorporations, to take \$50,000 of stock in the road. The election was held June 7, 1853, and the question was decided by a majority of 357. Prior to this the individual subscriptions taken in the county had reached the same amount. As soon as the result of the election was known, the county court being required to pay five per cent of the stock in money or in bonds, issued a bond for \$2,500. The same per cent was also collected on the private subscriptions.

Col. Richard P. Morgan obtained the contract for grading and furnishing with ties all that portion of the eastern extension located between the Chicago & Mississippi (now Chicago, Alton & St. Louis) railroad and the town of Middleport. By this contract, made in September, 1854, the company assigned to him all the proceeds of

subscriptions obtained, or to be obtained, in Iroquois county. He then entered into a contract, bearing date November 13, 1854, with the county court, by which he was to receive 75,000 acres of swamp lands at seventy-five cents per acre. When the stock was voted it was generally understood that it was to be paid for from the proceeds of these lands. Morgan bound himself to procure from the railroad company certificates of the full paid shares of stock, to be transferred or issued to the county, to the amount of the estimates by the company's engineers from time to time, and as such estimates should be presented the county court was to pay to Morgan an amount equal to the par value of the stock so presented, in cash, or by a deed or a bond for a deed, to such a part of the said 75,000 acres of swamp lands as should at that time be unsold. Seventy thousand acres of these lands were set apart, commencing at township 24, range 10 east, and proceeding north by succession of numbers in each range successively until the complement should be obtained, and the other five thousand were to be those which might be selected in any part of the county by the citizens who should bid them off at public auction, at a price exceeding seventy-five cents per acre. The selection was to include all lands of this description entered at the land office, and Morgan was to receive the proceeds of the same. He was also to be entitled to all receipts from the sales of swamp lands by the county, provided that he should expend the money accruing from the sale of the 75,000 acres on the railroad within the limits of this county. The court also agreed to convey to him all the remaining swamp lands after the sale of the 75,000 acres, at \$1 per acre, whenever he should give satisfactory evidence that he could command from the sale of the residue means sufficient, by the addition of such securities as should be due from the company, to complete his contract. He was to pay for these lands with bonds of the Peoria & Oquawka Railroad Company, secured by mortgage on a portion of the road, to which bonds he would be entitled under his contract with that company. Morgan further stipulated that he would engineer and drain the lands free of charge before demanding a title, and also that all previous expenses in surveys or otherwise, made according to law, should be provided for from the proceeds of the lands. He was to receive the \$2,500 bond which had been issued to the railroad company, and the lands purchased by him were to be exempt from county taxes for three years from the date of this contract. Owing to a feeling among capitalists that the title to these lands was uncertain, Morgan failed to obtain means to prosecute the work, and as he could not get money or land from the county only

as that should be completed in sections and estimates made of the same, a lock was soon produced, leaving neither party capable of exercising separate power over the lands. The demand for them seemed to increase when it became known that they could not be sold. Settlers on adjoining tracts, as fast as they could accumulate means, were anxious to add some portion of these lands to their farms. The jobbers and speculators grew disquiet, for once a propitious circumstance, for their interest and discontent were sure to break the land embargo, if that were possible. Col. Morgan, self-willed and impracticable, meanwhile refused to give any satisfactory assurance of his willingness to accede to an accommodation. Influential persons suggested to him the expedient of making a new contract with the county. Among these were Joseph Thomas and George B. Joiner. The latter finding him on an occasion in the right humor, pressed the matter upon his favorable notice, and the consequence was, that on the 18th of August, 1855, Col. Morgan surrendered his contract, and a new one was made. The county court covenanted with Morgan to pay the monthly installments on the \$50,000 subscription in cash, or in county bonds drawing seven per cent semi-annual interest, principal to be paid in fifteen years, with a guaranty on the back of the bonds pledging the proceeds of the swamp lands for their payment. A reservation was made, by which the county was to retain a sum sufficient to defray all the expenses of the survey and selection, as well as the expense of quieting the contests of the title of the county to the lands. It was further agreed that the county should take steps to bring them immediately into market, and to pay Morgan the installments on the county subscription, either from the proceeds or with bonds, when he should procure from the Peoria & Oquawka company certificates of paid-up stock to the amount of the installments.

The court gave immediate public notice, through the columns of the "Middleport Press," to all who wished to purchase any of the swamp lands to make application to the county clerk by the 15th of September, and Monday, October 15, was set for the sale to commence. A second sale was held on May 6, 1856; these were the only public sales of swamp lands in Iroquois county. Up to this date the county court, which was vested by the special act of February 14, 1855, with power to appoint an engineer to survey the lands, had made no move in the matter, but on September 15, at a special term, they appointed Elkanah Doolittle, who subscribed the proper oath, and then nominated as his assistants, Robert Nilson, Benjamin F. Masters, George B. Joiner and Joseph Thomas,



who were confirmed by the court. The lands were examined and classified as first, second and third class, and appraised at \$1.25, \$1 and 75 cents per acre respectively. It will be necessary now to go back and trace up the history of the swamp land grant. By the provisions of an act of congress approved September 28, 1850, entitled "An act to enable the state of Arkansas and other states to reclaim the swamp lands within their limits," all the swamp and overflowed lands in the several states, unfit for cultivation at the date of the act, were granted to the states respectively. Every legal subdivision of land, the greater part of which was "wet and unfit for cultivation," was to be considered of this class. The reader's attention is invited to the condition upon which the cession was made, as expressed in the act, by which the title to these lands in fee-simple, vested in the state, viz: "That the proceeds of said lands, whether from sale or by direct appropriation in kind, should be applied exclusively, as far as necessary, to the purpose of reclaiming said lands by means of the levees and drains aforesaid." The legislature of Illinois, by an act in force June 22, 1852, granted to each county all the lands of this description within its boundaries so donated by the general government, and annexed the same condition as congress had before, "For the purpose of constructing the necessary levees and drains to reclaim the same; and the balance of said lands, if any there be, after the same are reclaimed as aforesaid, shall be distributed in each county, equally, among the townships thereof, for the purposes of education; or the same may be applied to the construction of roads and bridges, or to such other purposes as may be deemed expedient by the courts or county judge hereinafter mentioned desiring so to apply it." The control and disposition of these lands was vested in the county courts. By an act approved March 4, 1854, the control was changed to the board of supervisors in counties under township organization. All swamp tracts which had been sold by the government after the passage of this act of the general assembly, were to be conveyed by the county in which they were situated to the purchaser, who was to assign all his rights in the premises, and as such assignee the county was authorized to receive the purchase-money from the United States. Likewise, any which had been located by warrants after the passage of the act of congress were to be conveyed by the county, when the locator was to assign the warrant to the county judge, who was then to be regarded as the assignee of the state, and as such was empowered to locate the same on any of the public lands. In case that any had been appropriated in any other manner after the dona-

tion to the state, the county was authorized to locate a like quantity elsewhere.

The grant to the state for the building of the Illinois Central railroad was made September 20, 1850, eight days anterior to the passage of the swamp land act. By a ruling of the secretary of the interior in 1855, which is held to be binding on his successors, the state has been deprived of the swamp lands lying within the six-mile limit of that thoroughfare, the title to which remained in the United States.

“The history of the operations under the grant, however, reveal the fact that in the years of land speculation immediately following its passage, many of the lands conveyed by the grant were entered with cash or located with warrants by individuals. As a result of this, contests arose as to the actual character of the lands thus disposed of, and the land bureau found itself overwhelmed with conflicting claims of this description. The process of adjusting these conflicts was necessarily slow, and congress intervened to relieve the department and at the same time relieve the individual purchasers and locators. By act of March 2, 1855, all sales and locations made to that date were confirmed, and upon presentation of proof that the lands were actually swamp, the state was allowed indemnity, to be paid in cash where cash had been received, and in other lands where the swamp lands had been taken by warrant locations. Now it cannot be gainsaid, in view of the strong array of judicial decisions on the subject, that had the state of Illinois chosen to contest the right of the government to thus dispose of lands previously granted to her, she could have successfully done so. The moment the swamp grant was approved, the title to the lands vested in the state, and were as much beyond the power of the government to again dispose of them as if it had never owned them. In a spirit of accommodation, however, and to afford relief to many of her citizens who had ignorantly purchased these lands, the state of Illinois acquiesced in the plan of relief embodied in the act of 1855, and agreed to relinquish her claim to the land, and accepted the proffered indemnity.”\*

From these complications have arisen a mass of claims which are yet unadjusted, though legislation is now pending in congress for their settlement, the importance and magnitude of which claims will appear farther on.

\* Report of Isaac R. Hitt, state agent of Illinois for the adjustment of swamp land claims against the United States, p. 8.

The general law of 1852, granting the lands to the counties in which situated, was not—adopting Judge Chamberlain's own language—satisfactory either to Col. Morgan or to the county court, as it did not authorize or justify the application of the lands to the payment of bonds used in constructing that part of the railroad lying without and beyond the limits of the county. Before, then, the avails of the lands could be pledged to the payment or security of the bonds, the proceeds of which were to be expended as well on that part of the Eastern Extension lying without as within the county, the law had to be changed. It therefore became expedient, if not necessary, to procure a special act applicable to this new state of things. Other counties had set the example of getting special acts from the state to suit existing emergencies, and advance certain objects. Judge Chamberlain and Col. Morgan attended the legislature and obtained the passage of a law, entitled “An act to expedite and insure the thorough drainage of the swamp lands of Iroquois county, and to facilitate the sale thereof,” in force February 14, 1855. This act is so important to a full understanding of the subject that we shall be justified in giving a synopsis of the principal portions. The county court of Iroquois county was authorized to appoint an engineer, with assistants, to survey the swamp lands, who should recommend to the court an effectual and thorough system of drainage, and make such rules, regulations and compensations as would insure the draining of the lands. From the maps and reports of the engineer the court was to place a valuation on each piece, and to fix the price to be allowed for drainage; the judge was empowered to sell the same at public or private sale under the direction of the county court, either in large or small tracts. But those contiguous to improved farms were to be sold at public vendue after thirty-days notice in some newspaper in the county, at prices not below the appraised value. The surplus arising from the sales over and above the cost of drainage, was to be applied by the county court in payment for the capital stock of the Peoria & Oquawka Railroad Company on that part of the Eastern Extension situated between Middleport and the Chicago & Mississippi railroad; also in payment of such other securities of that company as the court might deem expedient; and to appropriate such portions thereof to school and other purposes as they might think advisable. Payments by purchasers were to be made to the county treasurer, in cash, or such securities as the court should deem sufficient, on the day of sale or the succeeding day, the cost of drainage first to be deducted therefrom. A certificate was to be given for lands sold subject to drain-



age, and whenever the drainage should be completed in conformity with the system which the county court should adopt, deeds were to be executed. The balance due for draining each tract might remain unpaid by the purchaser for eight months after the day of sale; but if the estimated cost should not be paid, or if the labor of draining should not be performed within that time, the land should revert, and the money advanced should be forfeited to the county. Authority was given to receive for all the swamp lands, any money, scrip, warrant or other evidence of entry which should be issued by congress to the state of Illinois, the same to be subject to the order of the county court. Iroquois county was exempted from all the provisions of the general laws enacted to fix the mode of draining and selling the swamp lands which conflicted with this act.

Only a little while now elapsed till a disagreement arose, Judge Chamberlain says, "Between Col. Morgan and the county court, as to the policy of issuing county bonds as fast as, and to the extent that he desired; and also as to the policy of giving to him the swamp lands with no very good prospect of realizing anything for them, but with the strong probability of losing them entirely." Charges and denunciations were freely indulged at the expense of the court. Distrust of its capacity and integrity grew apace, until it had deteriorated so much in public favor that this became the chief argument in support of township organization. Writing in his own defense in 1857, Judge Chamberlain used the following language in regard to Col. Morgan, which is an authoritative explanation of the reasons for resisting his importunities: "His extravagance and folly, and utter incapacity to take care of any financial business was such that there was not, as I believe, 25 per cent worth of work done, with the avails of the bonds, on the road. The bonds were literally squandered, and lost both to him and the county. But where should we have been now if Col. Morgan had gotten the swamp lands? Judging by the estimates of work he obtained and presented for the bonds, he could have received any amount of certificates and presented for the lands. It was not the business of the court, but of the railroad company, to look after the estimates. Had he received the lands, it is fair to presume, such was his recklessness in other matters, that he would have sold them for a slight consideration."

At the general election in November, 1855, the township system of local government was adopted. Robert Nilson, Dr. William Fowler and Foreman Moore were commissioners to district the county into political townships. The original number was eleven, as follows: Ash Grove, Beaver, Belmont, Concord, Chebanse, Crab

Apple, Loda, Milford, Middleport, Onarga and Wygant. Let us turn again to the Peoria & Oquawka Eastern Extension railroad. The grading of the Middleport division, under contract to Morgan, was done without any of the usual energy displayed on such improvements, and several times labor was wholly remitted. Work on the west end of the Middleport division was continued until the track was laid to Gilman. That portion of the line was opened for business, and the first train ran over it September 21, 1857. At the close of the year 1853 a sub-contract was taken by Sherman & Patterson, and Chamberlain & Thomas, of Middleport, who graded one mile of the route west from that place. This lay several years serving no other purpose than to keep in memory what was expressively termed, after the bonds had all been issued without a better prospect of seeing the work completed, the "dead horse" railroad. These men received three of the county bonds, which were paid by the county before the intervention of the Tallman arrangement.

Conflicting interests concerning the location of the route at Middleport retarded, in some degree, the construction of the line. It was surveyed to the Old Town, but disagreements occurring in regard to depot grounds, and a proposition on that point being entertained from Micajah Stanley, it was laid out and finally built on the present route. These cross-purposes furnished a pretext for the private subscribers to the capital stock to refuse to make payment. Fearing that they would be a total loss, the county court refused to issue the bonds. As has been elsewhere remarked, Judge Chamberlain was from the first strenuously opposed to the county's taking stock in the road, and exerted all his influence, by making speeches and otherwise, to prevent it. In May, 1856, \$19,000 of bonds were outstanding. Some of the first had been taken in and renewed for reasons not ascertained, nor even conjectured, unless because of the new arrangement made by which Morgan was to receive the bonds from the county. These bonds were executed with great reluctance by the county court, but the pressure of public opinion was irresistible. The measure was warmly advocated by such leading and influential men as Micajah Stanley, William Pierce and Joseph Thomas. At the second session of the board of supervisors, May 30 and 31, a special meeting convened to appoint a person to represent the interests of the county in the election of the board of directors of the Peoria & Oquawka railroad for the ensuing year, Joseph Thomas was appointed agent; and the county treasurer was directed to deliver to Col. Morgan on the presentation of certified full paid stock, bonds sufficient to cancel the same, in pursuance of

the contract existing between him and the county. The bonds were at this time executed and held by the treasurer. On June 3 following, the contract with Tallman, which will be noticed at length hereafter, was made, and at this time there were outstanding, as shown by this contract, thirty-one bonds, an increase of the bonded indebtedness in two weeks by \$12,000.

The grading between Middleport and Gilman was well advanced, and the bridges on the principal streams were raised. Fresh efforts were made by Morgan to obtain private aid for the road, but beyond getting hold of the county bonds he accomplished nothing. The diverse interests which were operating to locate the line, one at Middleport and the other where it now is, brought matters to a crisis between Morgan and the company. He decided to run the track to Middleport, when some who were interested in the New Town, among them Mr. Stanley, the proprietor, who donated 10 acres for a station, appealed to the company, and his purpose was reversed and contract terminated. This resulted in litigation in which Morgan recovered judgment against the company for \$50,000. The following spring, 1857, this division being extended to the state line where connection was to be made with the Toledo, Logansport & Burlington railroad, and its construction in new hands—T. C. Field, of New York, and other contractors—witnessed a renewal of interest in the enterprise, and private subscriptions secured by mortgage on real estate, amounting to \$47,000, payable on completion of the road to the state line, but void if not so completed by January 1, 1859, were obtained by George B. Joiner, agent for the company. But the hope raised and confidence inspired by the new energy apparently infused into the project underwent again, as grading was not resumed for two years, a mortifying transition. Both the company and the people continually realized defeats and disappointments. In the "Iroquois Republican," August 26, 1858, Dr. Blades thus alludes to this matter: "For years the company have struggled with counter railroad interests and schemes, and have thus far defeated them; have struggled with enemies within its own organization, and have exposed and rid themselves of such enemies; have struggled beneath pecuniary depressions that would have completely crushed most other enterprises, yet through it all, in spite of all, they have built 180 miles of the road. \* \* \* Our people have waited, and wished, and hoped, and wondered, and have at last settled down into a kind of apathetic feeling somewhere between indifference and despair." The stock subscriptions taken by Mr. Joiner two years before were forfeited.



In the spring of 1859 the company caused it to be made known that unless the people should aid the road with at least \$25,000 its completion would have to be abandoned, perhaps for years; and with this announcement was coupled the intimation that in such an event the route might be diverted from Gilman to some new point on the Wabash; but if such aid should be forthcoming they would finish the line during the year. Asa B. Roff, as agent, made a strong effort to raise the amount asked. On May 5, 1859, he had secured \$17,975. With only this amount subscribed the company resumed work to encourage the people and strengthen their faith in its ultimate completion, at the same time giving assurance that it would be necessary for them to raise an additional seven or eight thousand. A contractor named Doyle laid the track on this section and made connection at the state line with the road just put down from Monticello, on the Wabash, and the first train of cars ran through from Peoria to Logansport but a day or two before the ushering in of the new year, 1860. This result was mainly achieved by the indomitable will and energy of Charles A. Secor, president, and W. H. Cruger, superintendent of the road.

We have given an account of the swamp land question so far as it was involved with the railroad. We now recur finally to that subject. At the December term of the county court in 1852 the surveying and selecting of the swamp lands was let to John Wilson, George B. Joiner, Benjamin F. Masters, Robert Nilson, Belva T. Clark and Amos O. Whiteman. Legislation providing for this was loose and indefinite, and the lands were not selected with nice discrimination; some of the work was done in the spring of the year, a season when it was not difficult to find swamp lands, and without any excuse at all some of the finest pieces were thus condemned, and so the result was that much was designated as swamp land which was not of that description. Representations being made to the commissioner of the land department of the unfairness of counties in making selections, he rendered and published a decision requiring certain proofs to be made by the counties that the lands entered at the district land office and selected as swamp lands were of that character, within the meaning of the act of congress of 1850, which decision opened the way to contests and endless litigation. To enable contestants to enter the lands, they were required only to make proper applications, with proof that the tracts applied for were not swamp lands, within the meaning of the law.

The country swarmed with sharpers,—a class who never wait for a second hint, and rarely, if ever, need the first. Citizens of the

county as well as others did not neglect to take advantage of this state of affairs. It has been said that a flood of applications poured in upon the department from this county; but as some of the material, which we are obliged to draw upon, was the stock of political campaigns, the narrow line which divides fact from tumid campaign rhetoric is not always clear. No figures are at command by which to determine this question; the defenders of the county court, but more especially of its principal member, Judge Chamberlain, represent the number extravagantly large. But these were partisan utterances on the eve of election—a case was to be made out. One campaign circular, signed by nearly a dozen prominent citizens who were giving a loose rein to assertion for the ticket which had to find reasons for the sale, and some of whom were agents or attorneys for Tallman, estimates the amount at “nearly, or quite, one-half.” After the partisan ardor of the hour had cooled, the same persons would likely have discounted their own statement, “nearly, or quite, one-half.” Another, a candidate, touching off a last gun of the campaign, thinks “all the lands that were valuable, to say the least, were under contest.” Still another, soaring high in imagination, says that “application upon application piled in upon every piece worth contending for.” Regarding the efforts made to perfect the title to these lands, Judge Chamberlain wrote: “The county court of our county had exhausted their efforts in trying to get a title to the lands. Messrs. Thomas and Joiner had been to Washington at the expense of the county; Mr. Norton, too, our representative in congress, had exerted himself strongly throughout in our behalf, keeping us well posted in all that transpired there calculated to affect us; the governor, Mr. Matteson, had visited Washington in person concerning these lands on the part of the state, and had two agents through one session of congress there, to wit: Judge Scates, of the supreme court of the state, and Mr. Gilbert, in the hope of changing the mind of the commissioner, and having the order granting contests revoked, or of getting congress to pass an act confirming the titles. But all was of no avail.”

The county had \$47,000 of bonded indebtedness, on which there was an annual liability of \$3,290 for interest, and it owed the state \$2,500 for the surveying of the swamp lands. The contests and the debt served the useful purpose of specters to make it appear all the more probable that the lands would be lost, by showing through the magnifying lens of alarm the appalling extent of the evil in such a case. June 3, 1856, an agreement was entered into by the county court, and George C. Tallman, of Utica, New York, by which the

court agreed to sell, or issue certificates of sale, to Tallman for 10,000 to 20,000 acres of the swamp lands, for which the latter was to pay at the rate of \$1 per acre on an average, upon the following terms: \$1,000 when the certificates of sale should be issued to him, and the balance according to the quantity of land taken (which was to be selected for Tallman by Joseph Thomas within thirty days) on or before the first day of September, 1857, in cash, at seven per cent interest, or in county bonds at par, as he should decide, the interest to be payable from the first day of September, 1856. He agreed to drain the lands at his own expense, which was to be over and above the price at \$1 per acre. His selections were to embrace, first, all the vacant swamp lands on the west side of the Central railroad; he was to take none adjoining improved farms on the east side of that road, and also none under contest at the time of making the contract, of which the court had received written notice. He covenanted, besides, to procure at his option a valid title to one-half of the lands which he should select by the first day of September, 1857, or to defray at his own expense, when called upon, one-half of the cost of defending the contests, which might be made of any of the lands purchased by him. In case of failure on his part to perform one or the other of these stipulations, he was to forfeit \$1,000 advanced on the certificates, and the county court was to have power to determine the contract. The certificates to be issued to Tallman were to be unassignable, and the lands not subject to sale by him until the county had obtained, or the court was satisfied it would obtain, a title to them. On receiving title, the lands having first been drained, or the court being satisfied that they would be drained, a deed was to be executed to Tallman for the same. In case of failure of the county to get title to the lands, or to any part of them, a corresponding deduction was to be made from the amount mentioned to be paid for them, or others might be selected by him, as he should choose. In the event of his making payment in county bonds, he was limited to those outstanding at the date of the contract, the highest number being thirty-one. When made, it was left to the discretion of Judge Chamberlain whether this contract should ever take effect. One of the conditions was that if he should decide to accept it, it was to be entered upon, and become a part of, the swamp land record. Accordingly, on the 17th, the court ordered that it be ratified by placing it upon the record to date from that day, whereupon, agreeably to the contract, Tallman decided to take 20,000 acres.

On the 16th he was engaged by the county court, and authorized



to employ, at his own expense, such assistance as he should think best to obtain such a reversal or modification of the opinion of the commissioners of the general land office, as would enable the county to receive the proceeds of the lands entered and selected as swamp lands, and approved as such by the surveyor-general. On condition of his success, and as a result, if Iroquois county should come into possession of the avails, without further trouble or expense, he was to receive, as compensation, \$1,000 in money or swamp lands at their appraised value, according to the choice of the county. On the following day an order was entered to pay Tallman the money, "Upon the condition that he should procure from the commissioner of the land office at Washington, within six months, a good and valid title to the swamp lands of the county by having the same patented to the state, excepting that the said George C. Tallman is not by this order required to obtain title to any lands already gone into contest where evidence has been taken in said contest by the parties therein, or where the right to contest has been granted to contestants and notice of said contest served upon the county judge."

A question existed in the minds of most people as to which of the two bodies, the county court or the board of supervisors, had jurisdiction of the swamp lands. The administration of this interest by the county court had engendered a dissatisfaction so general that refuge had been sought from the evils, real or fancied, which the people imagined afflicted them, in a different form of county government; and the adoption of township organization was, to a certain extent, an arraignment of the court and a disavowal of confidence in it, however much they lacked of being well grounded. As the people would reorganize the board once a year, it was believed they would secure to themselves direct and perfect control of the lands. A law was passed, in 1854, giving the management of the swamp lands to the board of supervisors, in counties under township organization, to harmonize with the growth of the republican idea in the northern half of the state, because the original act invested county courts with that responsibility. As before stated, Judge Chamberlain and Col. Morgan obtained from the state, at the regular session of the legislature in 1855, a special act granting to the county court of Iroquois county entire control of the swamp lands in the county, for particular purposes. Foreseeing that a conflict of views concerning the proper tribunal to dispose of them would arise, now that township organization had been adopted, in January, 1856, the county court procured from the Hon. Uri Osgood, of Joliet, a lawyer of reputation, an opinion relative to the question. He held that the

board of supervisors would have no supervision over the swamp lands, or the sale of them, or over the proceeds of the lands when sold. In a controversy upon this subject, between John W. White, of Pike Creek, and Judge Chamberlain, in the spring of 1857, this point was urged with much pertinacity and no little seeming cogency by Mr. White, he taking the ground, without doubt erroneously, that the board of supervisors and not the county court was the lawful custodian of this immense interest.

Judge Chamberlain determined upon the sale of the swamp lands to Tallman. At just what time is not known, nor is it material; but his sentiments in regard to the matter cannot be better and more fairly represented than in his own language when a candidate for reelection in 1857: "The issuing of the bonds by the county has created a large debt against it; to pay off that debt with the swamp lands and their proceeds has been the uniform and expressed intention of the county court." Pertinent in this connection is the fact that seems to have been understood in that period of sharp discussions, that John Wilson at one time proposed on behalf of Elijah Huntley and James Culbertson, both responsible capitalists, to pay the bonded indebtedness of the county for one-half of the swamp lands, \$20,000 to be paid down. This was charged to Judge Chamberlain's account in the campaign of 1861, when the contest for his place was between Samuel Williams and Charles Rumley, and which, we believe, was never publicly denied; though he had been careful enough on a former occasion to contradict the truth of a similar charge, embodying a kindred proposition. It is said that he promised to accept Wilson's proposal, or at least to take it under advisement, but always declined definite action. What reasons the judge could have brought forward to excuse his course in pretermittting so handsome a sale we have no means of knowing, and can only express our surprise. John Wilson and Charles Rumley are authority for this statement. That it was his uniform purpose to extinguish the county debt with the lands is a fact resting upon his own assertion. It appears that he had decided to sell to Tallman in preference to anybody else. They were friends; he well understood Tallman's character and financial ability, and knew that his word was at all times as good as his bond, though Judge Chamberlain was not the man to omit any man's bond for his unsupported oral obligation. The contract jointly consummated between the county court and board of supervisors on the one part and Tallman on the other, bearing date October 16, 1856, was a sacrifice of the county's interests which public sentiment has never been charitable enough to excuse. Tallman

anticipating that some dispute might arise as to the authority of the county court to make a valid sale, preferred to have the two bodies coöperate in making the contract. The substance of this was that by virtue of the grants of congress and of the state the county sold and agreed to convey "all the lands now remaining not sold in the county, obtained under said grants, amounting to 40,000 acres or thereabouts, subject to drainage," for which Tallman agreed to pay \$30,000 in the bonds of Iroquois county, with interest from September 1, 1856, \$20,000 of which bonds were to be delivered in three months, the remaining \$10,000 whenever Tallman should see fit, by his providing for the interest on the same from the date mentioned; his performance of this stipulation to be secured by bond with two good securities, upon delivery of which to the county court, the clerk thereof was to issue certificates of sale. As fast as ascertained that any of the lands had been sold by the government, Tallman was to be entitled to a conveyance of them. The consideration for his payment of the \$30,000 of bonds was increased by "all the money, being the proceeds of the lands sold by the county up to this time, with the interest thereon," the county reserving the right to withhold the money until it should be ascertained what amount might have to be repaid to purchasers of lands already sold, which might be contested away; also to deduct the amount required to meet incidental expenses and to defend contestants [contests], besides other legal fees. The consideration was further increased by granting to Tallman "all the remaining interest of the county which they have to the land or the proceeds of the same, which have been sold by the general government at the land office at Danville, which were embraced in the selections of this county as swamp lands, inside of six miles as outside of the six miles on each side of the Illinois Central railroad," and he was empowered to receive the avails. He was still further entitled to receive "the benefit and the proceeds or otherwise that might be obtained by any new act of congress touching said lands, and all and every benefit that might be derived from the same, either in warrants or money, under the present law; and in every way, directly or indirectly, the same shall become the property" of Tallman, upon condition that he should deliver to the county court ten bonds of the county at any time before they should become due, and should provide for the interest on the same from September 1, 1856. He was allowed nine months to decide whether he would accept this last provision. The consideration was even further enlarged by the agreement that the \$50,000 of stock owned by the county in the Peoria & Oquawka Eastern Extension railroad



should be sold and transferred to him, provided he should pay seven remaining and outstanding bonds in like manner and time as the \$10,000 of bonds last above referred to, with the interest thereon from the same date. Tallman was given nine months "in which to make up his mind to accept of the same," and if accepted the county clerk was authorized to issue to him certificates of sold stock under a resolution of the board of supervisors passed October 15, 1856. The stock was to be delivered to Tallman, who was to leave it in the hands of the county court, to be by them delivered to him if they saw fit, when he should execute a bond, with approved security, guaranteeing that the seven bonds should eventually be redeemed and restored to the county. The contract of June 3d was canceled, and the \$1,000 paid upon it by the county was made the consideration for Tallman's performance of this, which sum was to be repaid when any of the county bonds should first be delivered to the county court. The county was "to pay out of other funds than those arising from the sale of the swamp lands the interest due on all or any of the bonds of the county up to September 1, 1856; and also all sums of money due the state for surveying and selecting said swamp lands." It was also "to procure, if possible, a repeal or modification of the law requiring said lands to be drained within eight months from the sale of the same." It was understood and so expressed in the contract that the bonds in question were only those at that time outstanding and issued for railroad stock. The instrument was signed by John Chamberlain, county judge; Samuel M. Ayres and Thomas M. Pangborn, associate judges; R. W. Andrews, Samuel Williams and Thomas Maggee, on behalf of the board of supervisors, and George C. Tallman.

This transaction was Judge Chamberlain's, and the credit or responsibility, whether it be approved or condemned, belongs to him. By his zealous championship it was accomplished, and for several years his overmastering will, ingenuity and prestige were constantly employed to keep the tide of opposition from breaking over its banks in proceedings either to nullify the sale or to test its validity. The committee of the board had been previously appointed to confer with the county court and Tallman on the subject. Their deliberations occupied two days. The report of the committee recommended making the contract, but Mr. Williams voted against its adoption, not being satisfied with the scheme,—but after it was done supported the sale. The same committee was instructed to complete the bargain jointly with the county court. This sale was unknown to the general public for some time, but when it was published there

was deep agitation. Some indorsed it; many shook their heads in grave doubt of its expediency and soundness, while others were outspoken in their denunciation.

We quote from an editorial in the Iroquois "Republican," of May 21, 1857, by Dr. Blades, in which he says: "Whether it be correct or not, there is an impression pervading the public mind of this county, that the county has had its interests badly financiered in disposing of the swamp lands, under the contract to Mr. Tallman. There are but few who believe that the board of supervisors and the old county court had any other view in the matter than for what they deemed for the best interests of the county. But a considerable portion of our citizens believe they have made a bad job of it, notwithstanding"; and "a large number believe that the contract was made without sufficient consideration, and that it is not a valid one. And they demand that if the contract is not a good one, the board should repudiate it." Again: "The people want this matter satisfactorily explained, and they are determined it shall be, from what indications we can gather." He then urges the board to publish the facts upon which it is assumed that the sale is for the best interests of the county, and was at the time it was effected; and also that an able attorney be employed to investigate the subject and pass an opinion upon it, out of respect to the demands of the people.

Owing to the scantiness of authentic material we cannot undertake to follow this important question in detail to the time it ceased to engross attention and be a factor in the politics of the county. Like Banquo's ghost, it would never down. The reason was, that the sale was not believed by many to be certainly completed in law until some years afterward. There was continual uneasiness, a strong disposition to overturn, if possible, what had been done; repeated threats concerning such an intention; and prophetic declarations as to the issue, should it once be tried. The board of supervisors could not but be in a feverish state, and the subject was often warmly debated. Tallman was present during several of these sessions, at which all his art and persuasion, as well as those of his friends, including Judge Chamberlain, were required to appease the high state of feeling and subdue the determination to take such steps as would ultimately have made it a matter of judicial investigation.

We have often to recur to the fact that the people were beaten in their ulterior object in adopting township organization, and we have already stated how the contingency of such an event had been forestalled by a special act procured, conferring on the county court full

powers for the control of the swamp lands. The people certainly were not looking for so surprising a thing as the sale of those lands on such terms by the first board of supervisors. Having had enough of that business with Morgan, and lost faith in the efficiency of the county court to manage that interest, had they not adopted township organization to take the control of it into their own hands through a board elected every year? It is not to be wondered at that they were sorely displeased, if they were not amazed, at so irresolute a proceeding. All they could do, then, was to possess themselves in patience until a new board was elected. As soon as this was done notice was given convening the supervisors on May 18, 1857, for the purpose principally of making an appropriation to investigate the swamp land business. No record of this meeting is in existence, we believe, so it is impossible to outline the proceedings, but from collateral sources we are able to state that the question got an airing, which called out the editorial by Dr. Blades, from which we have made extracts. The board adjourned till June 16. The situation must have been felt to be critical, for Tallman was sent for to be present, to defend his interest. This subject was made the special order for two o'clock in the afternoon. An effort was made to obtain an order rescinding all former orders pertaining to the contract. Tallman was invited to explain how he became possessed of the lands, and did so in a lengthy speech, giving a history of the sale. He held that the county had no title of any value; that it was unable to procure it, and that he and his friends stood a better chance of doing so through congress. Joseph Thomas and Judge Chamberlain followed him with substantially the same argument. The latter, also, took occasion to justify his motives and to defend himself against the aspersions of those who were trying to break the contract. James Fletcher, then the acknowledged head of the Iroquois bar, was employed to reply, which he did in an able manner, showing up the whole transaction. Then the board engaged in a full discussion, when a vote was taken, and the proposition lost by nine to three. Following is a record of the vote: Ayes — B. F. Brady, Chebanse; Dr. E. K. Farmer, Milford; Dr. William Miller, Crab Apple. Nays — Samuel Williams, Belmont; George West, Middleport; William Smith, Concord; William B. Lyman, Beaver; Thomas Maggee, Wygant; Michael B. White, Ashkum; R. W. Andrews, Onarga; Wesley Harvey, Ash Grove; James H. Major, Loda. The board then passed a resolution, by an exactly similar vote, indorsing in every particular the contract with Tallman. This was the third ratification of the sale by the supervisors. Messrs.



Brady, Farmer and Miller entered a formal protest against it. The spirit was bitter and the session stormy. The board continued its sitting well into the night, a sharp struggle going on in the endeavor to expunge the protest. Early the next morning Tallman called on Brady to learn the grounds of his hostility. He informed him, among other things, that he was standing by the sentiment of his town; that the people who sent him believed the sale was an iniquity; that the county was getting comparatively nothing for this magnificent land grant; and that the county, besides, was in debt several thousand dollars for expenses incurred on account of the lands. Tallman simulated surprise at this last fact, and said at once that he would pay the amount (some \$6,000) and clear the county from debt. In good faith he bound himself by contract with the supervisors (dated the 16th) to do it. This contract was lost in the fire of 1866, and all we know of it is what we learn from another, between Tallman and the county court, dated the 22d, and preserved in the swamp land record, ratifying it and engaging to fulfill all its requirements. Tallman agreed to pay the indebtedness due by the county to the state for the expense of selecting the swamp lands, some \$2,500; and also to pay certain coupons due upon the county bonds previous to the first of September, 1856, amounting, according to reasonable inference, to \$1,500 or \$1,600, but not in excess of the latter sum.\* The board, in this agreement, authorized the county court to carry out fully all contracts made or to be made with Tallman respecting the sale of the swamp lands, and to execute the necessary conveyances; "and to do all and every other act by which said Tallman shall enjoy the full benefit of his purchase and contracts."

The grounds on which the board held the sale to be advantageous to the county at the time it was made, are stated by Dr. Blades (who was opposed to the sale), in the issue of the "Republican" of May 28. He says: "They set out with the proposition that the county was \$50,000 [\$47,000] in debt for stock in the Eastern Extension of the Peoria & Oquawka railroad; that the people of the

\* This will not make the \$6,000. We are not able to account for that sum, and doubt if the amount was more than \$4,000; though all our information (not purporting to be exact) puts it at \$6,000, and we have so stated it. We subjoin this additional suggestion: When the surveyor-general, under the direction of the secretary of the interior, listed the swamp and overflowed lands to the governor, the state was charged, contrary to the law, with the cost of the lists and plats, which amount the governor paid under protest. The proportion which fell to Iroquois county was \$3,314.50. This may have been included in Tallman's contract, in which case the aggregate reached about \$7,000.

county were induced to assume that debt on account of the prospect that we should be able to pay that stock with the proceeds of the swamp lands; that it came shortly to appear that as a large majority of those lands were contested, which necessarily put the county to considerable expense in defense, in many instances absorbing the value of the land, and in others the lands would be wholly lost; that the commissioner of public lands had decided that every separate tract must be re-surveyed and proved up by at least two witnesses in person at the land office at Springfield, all of which tended strongly to show that the lands would not only be worse than valueless, but that in the end the county would be left with the onerous debt of \$50,000 hanging over it with no other resource than that of special taxation wherewithal to meet that debt; they very plausibly maintain that they were making a bargain which certainly appeared to be for the best interest of the county." We continue to quote from the same candid authority, in an article published more than a year earlier (May 8, 1856), being a notice of the first meeting of the board of supervisors held on the 2d and 3d, and before the first contract was entered into with Tallman. "The question as to the proper authorities to control the county swamp lands occupied much of the time, some members of the board being of the opinion that they had the legal right exclusively to manage the swamp lands as well as any other interest of the county, and that the interests of the county require the postponement of the coming land sale [May 6]; that the lands are daily becoming more valuable, and that if sold on credit, or partly on credit with interest, the accruing interest could be used to meet the interest we are bound to pay semi-annually on our railroad bonds. A motion to apply for a bill of injunction on the former court or upon Judge Chamberlain, to prevent the approaching sale of such lands, was discussed and finally lost." The actual situation in regard to these lands before Tallman purchased them, was not nearly so alarming as it was made to appear when the sale had been accomplished, and "reasons" were in demand to excuse it. He got the lands and all the benefits accruing from them, which would indicate that the difficulties were either greatly magnified, or that his business ability was scarcely less in degree and far more practical and conspicuous than the combined wisdom of the county court and board of supervisors. Starting with the result and running back from effect to cause, the impolicy of this sale and the puerility of the reasons assigned are so apparent that he who runs may read.

We must now go back a few months in our relation to note some

transactions of essential interest. At the January term of the county court Tallman presented twenty county bonds, together with his personal bond with three good sureties—J. B. Warner, Samuel Stocking, of Oneida county, New York, and W. P. Swift & Co., of Chicago—for the delivery of ten other bonds, in pursuance of his contract, and an order was entered to issue certificates for the lands. On the following day another order was made countermanding the first, together with the certificate of sale annexed on the record, another contract (marked B) having in the meantime been executed between Tallman and the county court. In substance the stipulations of this were that the contract of October 16, 1856, was “based on the condition that time should be given said Tallman in which to drain said lands [no such condition appears in the contract], inasmuch as many of the lands were under contest; and it being impossible to ascertain what lands, or how many, the county was entitled to by reason of an order issued by the commissioner of the land office at Washington, permitting parties to contest away any of such lands,” it was agreed that this should form a part of the above mentioned contract, and that the county court should get an amendment to the law extending the time for draining the lands as the law then stood, with the express understanding that the court should convey the lands to Tallman, conditioned that if it should be unable to procure such amendment, Tallman should pay over the expenses of draining the lands, which expenses were to be estimated by the county engineer; or he might drain them after it should be found what lands were not under contest. In case there should be any informality in the conveyance the court guaranteed a perfect future one. The certificate of the county engineer or surveyor was to be the only evidence required as to the proper draining of the lands, and upon the production of such certificate he was thereupon to be discharged from any further liability in that regard. But no advantage was to be taken of him even if the lands sold to him by the contract of October 16 should not be drained within the time required by law.

A quit-claim was this day—January 3, 1857—executed to Tallman for 44,029 acres for \$30,000, covered by the thirty bonds of \$1,000 each. At the same time he made choice of the remaining interest of the county in the lands sold by the government, including those within six miles on either side of the Central railroad, or the proceeds of the same, and also the \$50,000 of railroad stock for which he was to deliver the seventeen remaining and outstanding bonds. On the 5th he deposited his personal bond with two good securities (William P. Swift & Co. and A. J. Galloway), guaranteeing the delivery of the bonds.



In fulfillment of the contract just cited, Judge Chamberlain, seconded by Joseph Thomas and others, did secure an amendment to the law extending the time of drainage, which law took effect February 16, 1857. We will turn aside to remark that for the first two years the proceedings of the board of supervisors were not published. The county papers at that day were conducted for more general objects, and the editorial department received greater attention than is bestowed on similar publications now, and while they surpassed their successors in these features, they exhibited less local enterprise than is to be found in the press of to-day. This explains why even a synopsis of the official transactions of the county court and of the board of supervisors was never published. It is not surprising, then, that the sale to Tallman should not have come to the knowledge of the general public until the contract was copied from the records by Spottswood A. Washington, and published in the "Iroquois Republican" January 1, 1857, when the scheme was well matured and nigh accomplished for the legalizing of the sale in the act of February 16, already noticed.

The circumstances attending the passage of this act were such that they cannot be passed without notice. Franklin Blades was representative from Iroquois county in the general assembly at the time, and it was well known that he did not favor the sale, though he was by no means extreme in his opposition. In getting the law amended on the point of drainage the occasion was taken to encompass another, if not the principal, object, which was carefully concealed. Artful and gradual approaches were necessary not to awaken the suspicions of representative Blades. Joseph Thomas got Uri Osgood, of Joliet, to draft the bill "in an ambiguous and circuitous manner on purpose to escape detection," and assured Blades "that the only end sought in having the bill passed was merely to extend the time of drainage." A letter from Judge Chamberlain to Blades, the burden of which was drainage, contained this clause: "We want an act amending the special law, already passed, with reference to the swamp lands of Iroquois county, extending the time, and also with regard to some other points of less importance." This feinting had the effect to call off Blades' attention from the "points of less importance," and in the hurry of business, as he afterward admitted in a published explanation, he "took the bill and read it (we are now convinced too carelessly), and not detecting, through a mass of garbage and meaningless tautology and ambiguity, the clandestine clause legalizing the swamp land sale, we introduced it. We are certain that not one single member of either the house or the senate ever

suspected the legal effect of that bill." In the running controversy between John W. White, of Pike Creek, and Judge Chamberlain, the former indirectly charged that the bill was got through by "trickery or ledgerdemain," whereupon the judge replied by asserting that Blades knew all about it, and referred to the fact of their having had correspondence on the subject. This brought Blades out in astonishment that the judge should charge that he "*did* know all about the passage of the bill," which charge itself was cautiously worded and perhaps literally true, without his knowing "all about" the contents of the bill. Judge Chamberlain is entitled to the benefit of everything that can be said to his credit or in his defense. We aim to keep this object in view. In a published communication in answer to Mr. White he stated that he did not know that the bill contained the legalizing clause until he received a copy of it from Springfield. We have sought to find if Judge Chamberlain explained away the shadow of dark doings in this matter, but without success.

This discussion transpired in the campaign of 1857, when he was a candidate for reelection. On November 3 he received 758 votes, to 472 for his opponent, H. C. Bryant, which majority of 286, while being an apparent indorsement of the policy he had championed from the beginning, reflected not the less a nervous but groundless apprehension that, if elected, Bryant would involve the county in costly litigation. This was the superior harping-string of the canvass, as it was among the leading ones four years later. This dread of going to law was co-extensive with the dissatisfaction prevailing; and the most violent opposers of the sale shrunk from it; even as prominent and outspoken a man of that number as John W. White said in one of his communications: "I, as a citizen of the county, am opposed to going to law in this matter if it can be possibly avoided; it would be ruinous to the county." The student who has observed in the history and practical workings of politics, instances of a popular dread of unsettling or burdening the business interests of a community or state, not subject to fluctuations of danger and security, must have been struck with the uniformity with which the candidates who were looked upon in the light of disorganizers have been defeated. Of the very large class who doubted the wisdom of the financiering, but few thought anything could be gained by trying to abrogate the proceedings of the court and the board.

Continuing to quote from the same authority as before in a careful and exceedingly liberal editorial after the election: "We are satisfied that when the terms of the sale of the swamp lands to Mr. Tallman first became known, there was a large majority of the people of this

county who were decidedly opposed to it. There were but very few, indeed, even among the warmest political friends of Judge Chamberlain, who were so bold as to come out in approbation of the sale. But it seems that a great reaction has taken place, and we are inclined to impute that reaction to a fuller knowledge of all the circumstances connecting with the contesting of those lands and the uncertainty of ever obtaining a title to them. We are not sure that the majority are yet convinced that the sale was the best thing that could have been done with them; but having been made, they were strongly opposed to meddling with it." From this postulate Dr. Blades proceeded to draw a conclusion that the result, induced by "a nervous apprehension, which was kept alive and increased by unscrupulous misrepresentation; that in case Mr. Bryant should be elected county judge, he would proceed at once to involve the county in an expensive lawsuit, by contesting the validity of the sale," was a "handsome indorsement by the people," and "that the people, by an emphatic vote, have made it, with its good or bad policy, their own," and that "their decision should be cheerfully and without cavil submitted to." If the people had known that they still possessed an equitable right to the lands, it would have been a "handsome indorsement," and further cavil should have ceased; but as the impression was growing that they were conveyed out of reach, and the fear of a chancery contest was made an element of the canvass, and consequently of the vote, it is just as clear that it was deemed best to permit Judge Chamberlain to complete, according to his own design, the policy which he had inaugurated, as that he was elected.

We have omitted thus far to chronicle that Col. Morgan, in June, 1857, commenced an injunction suit in the United States district court, at Chicago, to assert his rights under the original contract he made with the county, alleging the later one to be fraudulent and void; and to set aside the contract with Tallman and restrain the county from selling the lands to him. On his own motion, Tallman bore one-half the expenses incurred by the county, and retained the Hon. I. N. Arnold, of Chicago, as one of the attorneys in the case. The county employed James Fletcher and George B. Joiner. An answer was filed to Morgan's bill, and the case was thrown out of court. The surface of public feeling was kept in a troubled state by the smoldering fires within, and every little while there would be an eruption when the board met. Tallman was, at least once, before this body in 1858, explaining and defending his course. He could well afford an occasional tilt; the stake he was at this time playing for was no mean forfeit. Meanwhile he was addressing himself to



the matter of perfecting the title to the swamp lands by getting them, or as many as had been approved by the surveyor-general, patented to the state. A six-months sojourn in Washington with the agent for the state sufficed for that purpose. In course of time another special act touching the swamp lands was regarded as indispensable to the closing up of this vexed patchwork. It was forthcoming, and was accordingly obtained from the state, February 18, 1859—Judge Chamberlain and Ray W. Andrews attending the legislature for this and other purposes. George B. Joiner was employed by the county court to lobby this bill, for which he was allowed \$50 from the swamp land fund. Nothing was left to petition for again, nothing left for a future subject of legislation—it was sweeping in every provision. The county court was given as full discretion in regard to selling and draining as an individual has in the disposition of his private property; and this was a release from all obligation to drain the lands. A new article of agreement was drawn up April 22, to which the county court and Tallman were the parties, reselling the entire swamp land grant, the net proceeds of all the lands which had ever been sold by the county to other parties than Tallman himself, and the proceeds of all such lands in the county which had been sold by the government, including whatever remote or contingent interest the county had or ever should have in the lands within six miles of the Central railroad, and also a like interest in any land warrants or money arising from the grant to which the county had or ever should have any right. The consideration was twenty-three \$1,000 bonds, which Tallman had already delivered under his contract of October 16, 1856, and his guaranty, with two good sureties, to pay and deliver the remaining twenty-four \$1,000 bonds at any time before maturity, with the coupons; including, also, his guaranty to pay the state for selecting the lands, which were at this time sold to him subject to drainage, Tallman agreeing to sell them as soon as practicable, and to require purchasers to drain them when they required it and were susceptible of drainage. This guaranty, with the delivered bonds, constituted the whole consideration and purchase price of the lands, and every interest or benefit accruing at any time from them. Tallman presented his bond, with B. D. Hurlburt and I. R. Warner, of Oneida county, New York, as sureties. Judge Chamberlain was then directed by the court to execute to Tallman a deed of conveyance in fee-simple for the lands, and to carry out every part of the agreement. This deed was of concurrent date with the contract, and conveyed 45,527 acres, “and also all other lands, not heretofore described, that said county of Iroquois

obtained a title to by means of the laws aforesaid, or any of them." All the old contracts were canceled and restored to him, and he returned the \$50,000 of railroad stock, being released from his obligation to pay for the same. This he made a pretense of giving to the county, all of which was for effect, and to have material in hand for defense and to keep down clamor, when in fact it was nearly worthless. In 1864 the county obtained a reissue of this stock, and four years afterward sold it to William H. Cruger, vice-president of the company, for \$4,000.

At the annual meeting in September, 1860, A. B. Ives, a noted real-estate lawyer, of Bloomington (having been employed by a committee previously appointed), read a report to the board of supervisors concerning the validity of the sale by the court and board jointly, October 16, 1856. Having reviewed the contracts with Tallman, and the several acts of the legislature, he held that the county court had never been divested of jurisdiction of the swamp lands; that the joint sale was consequently void or voidable; and that the one made April 22, 1859, by the court, the only competent authority, was binding in law.

A few scattered details and items of information is all that remains to complete the account of this once engrossing theme and fruitful source of controversy. From October 15, 1855, to February 25, 1858 (the first and last dates of sale), there were sold by the county, exclusive of the sales to Tallman, 16,155 acres, for which it received \$18,360.69; and there were due November 1, 1861, from purchasers holding certificates, \$1,282.40. Under the act of February 14, 1855, the county sold 14,490 acres of these lands. On April 22, 1859, when the sale was renewed to Tallman, the court passed an order declaring that where the purchasers of swamp lands complied with the law of 1859 they were entitled to deeds, and the judge of the court was directed to execute clear conveyances, requiring the lands to be drained when they were intended to be put to cultivation. By virtue of this order deeds were given under the provisions of the act of 1859 for the lands sold under the act of 1855. The court becoming satisfied that these deeds, not being authorized by the law of 1859, were invalid, at the October special term, ordered new ones executed. At a special term, November 1, 1861, the court instructed Judge Chamberlain to make a deed in fee-simple to Tallman for all the swamp and overflowed lands "donated to this county, . . . whether all or any part of them have been patented or certified to the state or county or not, excepting, however, out of such deed any of the lands heretofore

duly sold by the general government, or by this county, and also those heretofore conveyed to said Tallman by John Chamberlain as such county judge." There were smaller deeds to Tallman, conveying in the aggregate about 1,000 acres. The act of 1857 authorized the county judge, whenever he should be satisfied, either by report of the swamp land engineer "or by other evidence, that any portion of the swamp lands which have been sold are thoroughly drained," to convey the same by deed in fee-simple. One of these minor deeds to Tallman recites that he had furnished satisfactory evidence to the court and to the county judge that the lands were thoroughly drained. This is the only one in which any pretense whatever is made that the lands had been drained, and it is a notorious fact that neither spade nor implement of any other kind ever broke the sod to drain them, except as it was done by actual cultivators upon them. The act of 1855 required the lands to be drained within eight months from the date of sale; before the expiration of the contract of October 16, 1856, the act of 1857, by which the time for drainage was extended to two years in the judgment of the county court, took effect; at the end of two years the act of 1859 became a law, investing the court with an absolute discretion in this matter. The sole intention of the grant was the drainage and reclamation of the lands for the health of the people and the development of the country. Never was a thing more "provided for" in laws and contracts, and yet more completely legislated out of existence. There have been patented to the state, of swamp and overflowed lands, (about) 63,580 acres; and the number concerning which proofs are on file in the general land office, showing the character of the lands entered with cash and land warrants, and which are unadjusted, is 32,000, making a total of this class of lands in Iroquois county of 95,580 acres.\* Tallman realized from this bargain in swamp land funds of the county, which were paid over to him by the treasurer on the order of the county court, \$10,427.10. The cash indemnity which he received from the land office for swamp lands, entered with cash and land warrants, by virtue of his contract with the county, amounted to \$15,664.56.† The amount of land which passed to Tallman was about 47,000 acres. It was sold by him at prices ranging from \$1.50 to \$5.50 per acre. Tallman acquired the equitable rights of the county in the 32,000 acres of unadjusted swamp lands which lie along the Central railroad. Legislation is pending in congress to dispose of the claims of states against the government, growing out of this subject.

\* Hitt's Report, p. 11.

† Hitt's Report, p. 35.



It would be curious to know what these lands cost Tallman, and it will be expected that some statement on this point will be made, but it is not our province to speculate ; nevertheless, there are some facts, though dimly preserved, bearing on this topic, which are legitimate history and ought not to be omitted. There is an indirect allusion in one of White's articles to Morgan's having sued the county for interest on some of the bonds ; and also for bonds claimed under his contract. Until forced to do so by public opinion, Chamberlain refused to deliver them, or some part of them, on his estimates. Those outstanding at the date of the sale to Tallman were nearly all of recent issue. We are not well favored with information on this head, even after diligent research, but prefer to believe that they were about thirty-five per cent below par, though common report makes the discount considerably greater. We remember having seen a newspaper published about the time of which we write, which stated that the bonds were worth sixty-four cents on the dollar. As some confirmation of this, at the June (1857) special term of the county court, a bond was presented by S. M. Ayres, and as Tallman was bound to pay it, and the swamp fund belonged to him, the court ordered it received, and that Ayres be credited on the note held against him for borrowed swamp funds, the sum of \$650.

It is interesting to know something of the history of the management of the swamp land grant in other counties. "Of sixty-eight counties interested in the swamp land acts, but five have sold out their interest to speculators, the remaining counties have been judicious in the disposal of their swamp lands. Most of these lands have been drained and the country has been made healthier, and the revenues of the state, as well as the health of the counties largely increased."\* In taking leave of this topic we may be excused for adding, that if wisdom could have controlled in the management of this rich interest, Iroquois county might have had a source of revenue for many years to come ; at least it might now have been free from debt. This is to be modified by the condition that the same wisdom which was lacking in 1856 should not afterward have been wanting to resist the many temptations to prodigality through which our country has since passed. But with the experience of the past twenty years vividly before us, we have the most solemn doubt if prudential action would have held the ascendancy and made the most of this magnificent donation ; and, after all, perhaps it ought not to be regretted that it went at the time and in the manner that it did.

\* Hitt's Report, p. 11.

## ATTEMPT TO DETACH A PART OF IROQUOIS COUNTY TO FORM FORD.

A strong effort, begun in 1856 and maintained till 1859, was made to detach the southwest corner of Iroquois county, and unite it with that part of Vermilion county which is now Ford. The leading men of Loda, chief among them Adam Smith (deceased April, 1880), conceived the scheme of detaching a part of Iroquois, and making their village the county town of the new county. If they could secure the division, there was no doubt, owing to the peculiar, chance-shape of the proposed county, that they could succeed in this purpose. The petition that was laid before the legislature from these movers contained about 150 names of residents in the southwest corner, and several hundred of the citizens of Vermilion. A county was to be formed in any event; the only opposition was to the dismemberment of Iroquois, and this was exerted from two opposite quarters. James Mix was interested in Prospect City (Paxton), and wanted the seat of justice at that place. This was enough to make him an opponent of the Loda movement. There was little following in the county outside of Loda township. Meetings were held in various places, and vigorous efforts made on both sides. At an adjourned meeting held at the Loda hotel December 20, 1856, a verbal report, designating the boundaries of the new county, was made by Capt. J. M. Hood and David S. Crandall, committee. It was voted to embody the suggestions in a petition to be submitted to the citizens of Iroquois and Vermilion counties, and these gentlemen, with R. D. Foster and I. O. Butler, were appointed to draft it, with power to change the north line of division indicated by the committee. Addison Goodell, George Shafer and Moses Walker were appointed, with power to increase their number, to circulate the petition for signatures in the limits of the proposed new county. Messrs. Hood and Crandall were unanimously elected to carry the petition to Springfield, and lobby in the interest of the petitioners. A committee on finance, consisting of Addison Goodell, I. O. Butler, C. O. Barstow, Adam Smith and R. D. Foster, was appointed, with the privilege of adding to their number. On the 23d a meeting of the citizens of Onarga was held, to remonstrate against the proceedings at Loda, and to organize for effective resistance to the project. R. W. Andrews, W. P. Pierson, E. Knight, W. H. Skeels, Dr. J. L. Parmalee and Joseph Thomas were chosen a committee to draw up a remonstrance against any portion of Iroquois county being taken to form a new one. The following persons were selected to canvass the county: W. P. Pierson and Capt. E. Doolittle, Onarga; Thomas Magee, Wygant; W. B. Young, Chebanse; Alonzo Taylor, Ash Grove; Dr. E. K. Farmer, Milford; W. B. Lyman, Beaver;

Winslow Woods, Crab Apple; J. Strickler, Concord, and Samuel Williams, Belmont. Dr. A. N. Crawford, E. Knight, William A. Davis and W. P. Pierson were named to correspond on this subject with the three county papers: "Iroquois Republican," "Middleport Press," and "Garden State," the latter published at Loda. Meetings were held subsequently; but the account is carried far enough to afford a view of the thorough preparations by each party to canvass the subject. The petition and the remonstrance were presented to the legislature, and a bill was introduced to carry out the object of the former. Mix attended the session and used his influence against it. The representative, Franklin Blades, harmonized with a large majority of his constituents in opposition to it, and when a motion was made to suspend the rules and take up the bill, he announced his determination to resist its passage. The motion did not prevail, and afterward the bill was stolen, and so never came to a vote. Not having been able to enlist Blades' support, and the measure having failed ingloriously through theft of the bill, as it would likely have done had it reached a vote, Crandall came home and assailed Blades with caustic vehemence through the columns of his paper, the "Garden State," charging that he had promised his influence in favor of the project; whereupon Blades, replying through his own organ, the "Republican," denied the accusation in the same withering style and bitter spirit. On September 13, 1858, the republican convention, for the selection of a candidate for representative, was held in Middleport, and Capt. Hood, of Loda, was nominated by one vote over his competitor, C. F. McNeill. This was understood to be a triumph for the division of the county. Hood was elected. The work of getting up petitions and remonstrances was repeated. Judge Chamberlain and Ray Andrews were at this time in attendance on the general assembly to influence swamp land legislation, and James Mix was also there to lobby the bill establishing Ford county. These men killed Hood's bill, which was the end of the whole question.

#### PUBLICATION OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, ETC.

At the May (1858) special term of the board of supervisors two important measures were passed. On these points there had arisen a general demand. One provided for the publication of the current proceedings of the supervisors, accompanied by a resolution that "the board approve of the copying or searching for the purpose of publishing a general synopsis of the transactions of the county courts and boards of supervisors previous to this meeting of the board." This last was only permissive and amounted to nothing but a gerrymander



to rid the board of an attempt of Ray Andrews to create influence for himself, besides preventing expense to the county. The "Republican" had teemed with appeals in this matter. At this session both that and the "Press" came forward with propositions to publish the proceedings free of charge if furnished by the county clerk. Up to this time there had been no such publication, and of course the people could have little knowledge of how the public business was managed, or of the condition of their affairs. Ray Andrews had been the central figure in all the proceedings of the board. It is surprising that he should have had so much influence, and it seems paradoxical that, well known to be without principle, and corrupt, his support of any measure, or his antipathy to it, was nearly certain to bring it to successful issue in the one case, or to be fatal to its chances in the other. It is hard to believe that those in whose nostrils his reputation was inodorous should not have firmly opposed him. He was energetic, insinuating, unscrupulous. His push and manners made him agreeable to a large class with whom it was an easy matter for him to become a hail-fellow on short notice. It long has been, and likely long will be, that a vigorous, unprincipled character, capable of much harm, will inspire a certain degree of timidity and passivity. In all bodies, too, a few men of strong character rule, while the majority are either echoes or gaping spectators.

The other matter referred to, which had also been well ventilated in the "Republican," was the repair of the court-house and the furnishing of a jail. An undisguised prejudice existed against Middleport, which detracted from the disposition to improve this, or to erect new buildings. While the walls were substantial and sufficient, they did not inclose enough space, being but forty feet square; the inside of the building was dilapidated and crowded; there were no vaults for the records, and they were liable to destruction at any time by fire; the treasurer had no depository for the safe-keeping of funds, and large amounts, when there were such, had to be taken to Chicago and placed on deposit. The old log jail had long since been abandoned as utterly unfit for use, and prisoners were confined at Kankakee. This was an unavoidable expense, for the board had early devoted its attention to the purchase of a poor-farm and the building of bridges, which had diverted most of the county funds from other objects. A serious obstacle, besides, was the lack of building material within easy transporting distance. But at the meeting in question, A. C. Mantor, D. B. Gardner and M. Hogle were appointed to examine the court-house and ascertain what repairs were necessary, and whether it were better to build offices entirely disconnected from that building, with

instructions to report a plan and the cost at the sitting in June. They reported in favor of an addition of twenty-five feet to the east side, which would make the court-house 40×65 feet, and also proposed the erection of prison apartments in the basement. The suggestions of the committee were concurred in, except that the addition was made on the west side, and vaults were constructed in the court-house instead of erecting a separate building for the records. Inside, the house was entirely remodeled and refitted. The circuit court room was transferred to the upper floor and all the offices were removed below, where the cells and the vaults were arranged.

C. R. Brown, A. C. Mantor and George B. Joiner were the committee appointed by the board to supervise the improvement. On July 19 they let the contract to M. and J. Hogle. The job was to be turned over by the contractors by the first day of December. The heavy rains of the season interfered with the progress of the work, and delayed the completion of the contract till the latest moment. On the 22d the board closed its December session, and on that day the same building committee was continued and authorized to contract with the Hogle brothers "for the completion of the jail and cells, the furniture, shelving, and the recess for the vaults, seating the court room, and making the judge's stand and desk." The jail consisted of three cells, inclosed on the south and west sides with oak studding, spiked or bolted together, on the inside of which was another row of the same device lined on both sides with No. 16 iron; the north wall of the cells was four or five feet from the brick wall of the court-house, leaving a narrow corridor, and that and the east side were made in the same manner, and lined on the inside also with iron. The floor was laid of joists, edgewise, covered with iron in the cells, and overlaid with flooring. The ceiling, too, of the cells was likewise sheeted with iron. The whole expense, including commissioners' fees and cost of plan and specifications, was \$7,218.58. When this improvement was completed the court-house had cost the county a sum estimated from \$10,000 to \$16,000. The county offices were occupied February 1, 1859. The vaults, wanting ventilation, turned out altogether worthless, and the records were never kept in them. It was early found that the jail would not answer expectations concerning its security. Before the close of the year it became necessary to strengthen the cells and increase the safety of the prisoners by an additional wall on the north side, composed of heavy plank spiked together transversely; the insertion of a strong grate window in the partition between the corridor and the sheriff's office; an additional door made of heavy plank placed inside the hall door, to be well secured by locks, and the apartments to be ceiled over-

head with two-inch plank placed crosswise. A month before this the prisoners had almost effected their escape by digging through the wall. But these improvements did not keep pace with the enterprise and industry of the criminals. Between May 1 and the middle of September, 1860, the jail was three times broken, and eleven prisoners escaped. The board of supervisors was in session when the last lot got away, on the night of the 11th, and they promptly condemned the jail and ordered that the criminals of the county be taken to Kankakee and confined. But at the November meeting this was rescinded, and orders were given for securing the locks and fastenings of the doors. In the winter of 1861-2 Miles Williams and Henry Davis were confined for larceny, and indicted by the grand jury at the February term of court. With an auger and a saw, which had been passed in at the grate, Williams made a hole in the ceiling, through which he climbed up into the grand jury room, from which he escaped by lowering himself to the ground with a cord made from his bed clothing. After this the corridor was sheeted with iron overhead. Davis was tried on the 20th, and sentenced to the penitentiary for three years. On the 25th court adjourned till the following morning, and that night he undertook to break jail. Contrary to custom, he had not been locked in his cell, and this circumstance gave him opportunity to attempt escape. Not knowing that the hall door was iron lined, he built a fire against it, designing to burn through into the passage, when he could get out by way of the window. The heavy joists beneath the pine flooring had once before been burned partly through in the same place by Matt Lynch. They had now shrunk from seasoning, and when the fire penetrated the overlying boards a current of air sucked the flames through the interstices, when they were at once beyond the prisoner's control, and the dry material was swiftly lapped up by the devouring element. The fire was discovered about 2 o'clock in the morning. Some person broke in the window in the west end of the jail, but the flames poured out so that no entrance could be made. There was barely time to remove the records, which were in the east end, and the building was in ruins. Davis' body was found on the floor of his cell lying upon the breast with the head and limbs totally consumed. His mattress, burned off at both ends, covered the charred trunk. The court-house was insured in the Hartford and Phoenix Insurance Companies.

#### COUNTY SEAT CONTEST.

The rivalry between the old and new towns now waxed hot. The friends of South Middleport wanted the court-house at that place, and though the old town people would not acknowledge it, and made a



gallant fight, it was a foregone conclusion that a removal must take place; for wherever the thoroughfares of travel thread, the public convenience requires the establishment of every accommodation, and never waits long to have the need supplied. The people of the old town at first maintained that the seat of justice had been *permanently* located there, and that the county had accepted 100 town lots as a *consideration*, and that in equity they were entitled to its continuance in that place. Its removal would entail on property-holders a loss which men of little means could ill afford, and which none ought to be compelled to suffer. The hardship was apparent; but the location of the railroad had made it inevitable that it should be borne; for no voting population were ever known to have any scruples on such a point. Discovering at last that it would be next to impossible to prevent a removal, they then strove earnestly for a compromise location, which had strong supporters, Judge Chamberlain being of the number. The contest is to be admired for the ingenuity, energy and game spirit displayed by the two factions, but a too close view of all the details might detract measurably from any hastily conceived admiration; for this reason, and want of time and space, we shall only briefly outline it, believing that there is always much that should be forgotten, as well as much that ought to be preserved.

At the March term of the board of supervisors, held on the 4th, Charles H. Wood, Joseph Leonard and John Paul were appointed to settle with the insurance companies, and were given full power of adjustment, with authority to receive the funds and receipt for the same. This committee procured an assessment of the damages to the building by three disinterested appraisers, who reported it to be \$4,385.84; but as other parties had made proposals to rebuild for a less sum, the companies refused to pay that amount. They proposed to the committee to pay \$4,000, which was accepted, and drafts were promptly drawn in favor of the county. The committee reported their doings at the May term, and were directed to deposit the money safely in Chicago, which they did as follows: \$2,000 in the bank of Solomon Sturgis & Son, bearing four per cent interest, and \$2,000 in the bank of the Western Marine and Fire Insurance Company, drawing six per cent. A resolution offered by Daniel Fry, and adopted by a vote of 8 to 7, proposed "that a court-house be built within the incorporate limits of Middleport, as near the railroad as a suitable location can be obtained; provided that land sufficient for all necessary county buildings be furnished the county free of charge, and that a committee be appointed to examine locations, and report to the board the most eligible site at the earliest moment." The chair appointed Kendall

Shankland, John Paul and Daniel Fry. The record shows no report, but the board in committee of the whole selected lots 9, 10, 11 and 12 in block 2 in South Middleport, and recommended that the court-house be permanently located on them. The report was adopted, and \$8,000 appropriated, in addition to the \$4,000 of insurance money, for the purpose of erecting a court-house on the lots designated, on condition that they, together with "twelve other lots in South Middleport of an average value of unsold lots in said South Middleport, should be conveyed to the county by good and sufficient deed, in consideration of the permanent location of said court-house; and provided, also, that the citizens should donate the further sum of \$1,000, to be paid in money on the completion of the same." Daniel Fry, John Paul and Joseph Leonard were appointed to procure a deed to the lots, and besides, to procure plans and specifications, and to receive bids for building the court-house. A proposition was then submitted by James Fletcher, attorney for the citizens of Middleport, to rebuild the court-house on the old site, to be in all respects like the one burned, except the jail, provided the supervisors would let them have the insurance money, \$1,000, in county orders, and the old material to be found in the ruins. They offered to erect the house during the year, and to enter immediately into contract and bond, with good security, to perform their engagement. Fry moved to adopt, which was lost by the following vote: Ayes—D. Fry, J. L. Martin, E. S. Hamilton, Alvin Harroun, Thomas Stump,—5. Nays—K. Shankland, J. H. Jones, E. K. Farmer, P. Gendron, C. H. Wood, Isaac Beyea, Joseph Leonard, A. G. Willard,—8. John Paul and W. H. Shotwell were absent.

The Wilson House was rented at \$200 per annum, to be used for offices and storing the records. The old school-house in Middleport, owned by William Frees, was leased for terms of the circuit court, and was declared to be the court-house of Iroquois county during the same. The original plat of Middleport was enlarged May 9, 1859, and two of the lots (9 and 10) selected by the board for a court-house site lay within that corporation. As soon as it was known what action had been taken, the president and trustees passed an ordinance, on May 6, reducing the corporate limits to the original boundaries, leaving the new site wholly without the town of Middleport, where the seat of justice was located by the commissioners in 1839. It had been located there in pursuance of law, and the constitution provided that "no county seat should be removed until the point to which it is proposed to be removed shall be fixed by law, and a majority of the voters of the county shall have voted in favor of its removal to such point." An injunction was sued out to restrain the board from completing the

proposed removal and erecting a court-house, or spending any funds of the county for that purpose on the lots which they had selected. McNeill, Chamberlain, Fletcher and Joiner were solicitors for the complainants; and Randall, Roff, Clark and Walser for the defendants. This case was heard at the June term, but no decree was entered on the records of the court, and it is a reasonable inference that the injunction was sustained. This issue was made a prominent feature of the local campaign of that year. There were two tickets in the field and three candidates for representative: the republican ticket, on which Addison Goodell was the nominee for the legislature; and the people's ticket, so-called, selected from both political parties somehow without a convention, on which James Fletcher, a war democrat, was candidate for the general assembly. Charles Sherman was announced just before the election as a democratic candidate for representative, not with the hope of being elected, but to draw off votes from Fletcher and secure the success of Goodell — all in the interest of the removal. Fletcher was the champion of the mediate locality. Goodell, in a published card, thus defined his position: "It is my opinion that a large number of citizens desire the privilege of testing the wishes of the voters of the county as to whether the county seat shall remain where it is or be removed to the village of South Middleport; and should I be elected, a member of the state legislature, I will use my influence to secure the passage of a bill enabling the voters of the county to change the county seat from Middleport proper to the village of South Middleport." Goodell was elected. A delegation of the principal citizens, both from the old town and the new, attended the legislature at its sitting in the winter of 1862-3, James Fletcher, C. F. McNeill and Judge Chamberlain for the former and Micajah Stanley, A. B. Roff, Dr. William Fowler and Ray W. Andrews for the latter. Each went before the senate committee on counties with a bill embodying their respective aims. That urged by the first party proposed to make all of section 32 and that part of section 31 east of the river the seat of justice. Commissioners friendly to the old town were named. If a removal was voted, they were to select a site about half way between the two places, taking into consideration the interest of the two towns, its nearness to the railroad, and the consequent convenience to the people of the county. The second party proposed to the committee, and to Fletcher and McNeill, who were present, to withdraw their own bill and accept the one described, if they would amend it so that either the commissioners to locate the site for the county buildings should be elected by the people, or that the supervisors to be elected in the following April should be authorized to make the selection; in either



case the choice to lie between South Middleport and the point between the towns. This proposition was not accepted by Fletcher and McNeill. The intermediate location insisted on by the old town representatives was on the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 32, close by the residence of S. G. Bovie.

The bill, which was approved February 11, was drafted by A. B. Roff, and declared that if a majority of all the votes cast should be "for removal, then the said town of South Middleport (consisting of South Middleport and Stanley's addition thereto) shall be and remain the permanent seat of justice of said county." March 17 was fixed for the election. This satisfied both sides; the one because they were not aware of the fatal defect in it, and the other because they were aware of it, and could secure no better advantage on which to hang their hopes,—and nothing but the blunder of the other party had given them this. The legislature adjourned until June, and the lobbyists came home to engage in the short but heated canvass which was to follow. The act did not require a donation of the court-house site if the vote should be for removal, an unusual omission in such a case. An attempt to make capital out of this led Micajah and Rebecca Stanley to give to the county a bond of \$1,000, binding themselves to convey "four full-sized lots or their equivalent in quantity of selected land not laid off in lots," provided the county seat should be relocated at South Middleport. This campaign document was offset by another of similar kind signed by G. B. Joiner, C. R. Brown, E. Bowman, M. V. B. Harwood, W. S. Kay, Mary A. Troup, William Frees, W. F. Keady, J. L. Horton, Lewis Troup, C. F. McNeill and George King, binding themselves to rebuild the court-house in the old town in every respect as good as the one destroyed, upon payment to them of the insurance money collected, provided that the county seat should be permitted to remain. Then Stanley renewed his obligation, increasing the donation to eight lots. As the discussion advanced, and quibbles were raised and flaws professed to be found, both parties were driven to amend their bonds, to keep even before the voting public. Twenty-eight of the principal citizens of Middleport filed another bond, binding themselves to subscribe for \$5,000 of stock in the Kankakee and Iroquois River Slack-water Navigation Company. The last periodical movement in this matter had occurred only the summer before. The advantages of such improvement to the county had always been given roseate colors, and it was now regarded as only necessary to incur an obligation to aid this enterprise to be a piece of effective campaign capital, though it is not apparent what benefit could have been derived from this work by the general public, in which the new town would not have been equally

interested. The contest, as waged by the two places, was evidently enough a game of bluff. The new town followed with a bond also to aid the same project with a like subscription. It was charged that by a removal the county would become liable for damages, as certain parties had paid for the locating of the seat of justice at Middleport with town lots, and to prevent this from influencing taxpayers a bond was made by ten citizens of the new town to guarantee and indemnify the county against all damages on this account, resulting from the transfer. Eight of the leading townsmen also executed a bond, binding themselves in the sum of \$20,000 to erect and finish the court-house in every respect as good as the old one, and in addition, to pay the county \$500 on the completion of the same, with which to furnish it, and thus save the people, as they said, from being taxed for this purpose, provided that the county seat should be removed to South Middleport, and the obligors should be permitted to use the \$4,000 of insurance money. Middleport having filed an agreement to pay the county \$2,000 in case the site should remain and the county build the court-house, the new town filed another bond, agreeing to pay a like sum if, on removal to South Middleport, that place should also be released from its obligation to erect it. Numerous points were raised, and other agreements of less importance made. Every electioneering device was brought into requisition. Statements and affidavits were bandied about, and forfeits freely offered; the validity of the bonds was denied by the rival interests, and the old town, to disprove the charge against theirs, submitted the one obligating them to build the court-house to Judge Drummond, of the United States district court, and to Judge Manierre, of the Cook county circuit court, for their opinion, both of whom pronounced them good and sufficient. Circulars and addresses were issued broadcast, and all the trash which could be manufactured in connection with this subject was made to cumber the canvass. It is but just to observe that the new town discussed the main issue and the cognate questions with superior candor and sincerity. The old town, conscious of its feebler prospects, strove with the spirit of desperation. As the question was to come before the people, stump orators from both places traversed the county on foot and on horseback, wading through mud and swamps and sloughs, holding forth at every school-house where a knot of listeners could be collected, with as much earnestness and vehemence as if a mighty fate was suspended over the people, and would be decided by the coming verdict at the polls. If it seem strange that the old town people should make such prodigious exertions when they knew that the site could not be relocated under an unconstitutional law, it is explained by this fact, that this canvass would

be the real battle, without regard to the imperfections of the law; for if the result should be against them, the record of the prevailing wishes of the county would give their opponents a prestige which would certainly be fatal to their future prospects. So every energy and resource which one party brought to their aid spurred the other to redouble their vigor. The last echo of the conflict came from the new town in a bond, which in gaming parlance, as well as in the language of the agreement itself, was "a hundred dollars better." We quote it almost entire, as a curiosity and reminiscence of this struggle. The obligors, Charles Sherman, Micajah Stanley, A. Dalton, A. B. Roff, C. Secrest, William Fowler, John Fagan and A. Munson, "propose and agree, inasmuch as George B. Joiner and other citizens of the town of Middleport have filed their agreement to pay the county of Iroquois \$2,000 toward building the court-house in case it remains at Middleport, and inasmuch as the undersigned have filed their agreement to pay the county of Iroquois \$2,000 toward building the court-house in South Middleport or Stanley's addition thereto, and as we understand said parties intend to make an additional offer of several hundred dollars just on the eve of the election, to prevent us having the opportunity to compete with them, therefore we propose and agree to pay to the county of Iroquois a sum of money (in addition to the \$2,000 filed by us) equal to whatever sum may be pledged and secured by good and responsible parties and persons, and filed by said parties or any person or persons on behalf of the town of Middleport in the Iroquois county court before March 17, 1863, in addition to the \$2,000 already pledged by them. And we do hereby agree and bind ourselves to do, pay and perform whatever said parties may or will become obligated to do, pay or perform by virtue of any bonds, notes, agreements or other instruments that may be filed in the Iroquois county court before the day of the election, to wit, March 17, 1863, by them, for the purpose of building a court-house and saving the people from taxation, and we agree to be bound by the same obligation they may file, save and except that ours shall be payable on condition that the county seat be removed to South Middleport or Stanley's addition thereto, by vote of the people, on March 17, 1863. And we further agree to pay to the county of Iroquois, on the same conditions of the above agreement, the sum of \$100 over and above, and in addition to all such sum or sums of money that we have agreed to pay, and making the amount \$100 better to the county than the said parties of and on behalf of Middleport have or may be obligated to pay before March 17, 1863."

The election took place at the stated time. The "South Middleport ticket — for removal," received 1,138 votes; and the "Old Town



ticket — against removal," 810. The immediate impression was that the matter was now settled, and that nothing could hinder the board of supervisors from proceeding with the erection of the public buildings. A call for a meeting was promptly made by one-third of the members, and on the 23d the board assembled "for the purpose of selecting a site for the court-house in the town of South Middleport, in pursuance of a special law passed by the legislature entitled 'an act to enable the people of Iroquois county to vote for the removal of the county seat,' approved February 11, 1863, and in accordance with a vote of the people had on March 17, 1863." Having resolved into committee of the whole, the board adjourned to make the selection. They did not reassemble till the next morning, when their only proceeding, except to adjourn again, was an order fixing 1 o'clock in the afternoon as the time at which they would have read the injunction filed in the circuit court against the board of supervisors, the county and circuit clerks, and the treasurer. This injunction was sued out the day before by W. F. Keady, C. B. Barnes and Lewis Tronp. In the bill, among other things set forth, it was represented that the act of February 11 was unconstitutional, for the reason that "the said act was not read in either the senate or house of representatives composing the general assembly, on three different days, as is required by the constitution of the state, there being no emergency declared in either house. Under the constitution, no public act could take effect until the expiration of sixty days from the end of the session at which the same had been passed, unless, in case of emergency, the general assembly should otherwise direct. Consequently, this act had not become a law at the date of the election. The legislature had adjourned till June. Supervisor Fry submitted resolutions, the preamble to which affirmed that "whereas the people of Iroquois county have decided by their votes, by 320 majority, that the county seat of said county shall be removed to South Middleport; and whereas, there is an injunction pending in the circuit court of said county by which it is sought to set aside the expressed will of the people; and should said injunction not be tried before the June term, it will be too late to apply to the legislature (in case that should be necessary) for two years to come, therefore" it was resolved to petition Judge Charles R. Starr, of the twentieth judicial circuit, to hold a special term of court to try the injunction, and thus enable the people to apply to the general assembly in June for further legislation, if found to be necessary. A committee was appointed to employ good counsel for the county. The injunction was not tried until the November term, when it was made perpetual. The case went to the supreme court on appeal, and the law was de-

clared unconstitutional. All this time that the old town was waging a hopeless contest the county was at growing inconvenience, and the papers and records exposed to constant risk, for want of suitable buildings. There was no disposition shown by the supervisors to rebuild on the original site, and much less since the voice of the county had pronounced for removal. So an enforced delay until the assembling of the legislature in 1864-5 succeeded. At that session both factions were again promptly represented by lobbyists, the old town sending this time but one person—R. K. McIntyre. Some of the chief defenders of the place, who had been furnishing the brains in the controversy, having now acquired some interest in Watseka (the name had been changed from South Middleport, September 17, 1863), had lapsed into inactivity. An act, which was approved and became a law February 6, 1865, was obtained, designating Watseka “as laid out and platted on the entire southeast quarter of section 32 \* \* \* as the point to which the county seat of said county may be removed from the town of Middleport.” The first Tuesday in April (4th), 1865, was fixed for the election, and in the event that the county seat should be established at Watseka, the board of supervisors were constituted commissioners to select a site for the erection of public buildings; and it was made their duty to remove the records and offices of the county within ten days after the election. At the appointed time the issue was decided in favor of removal by a majority of 831 votes. The supervisors convened at the county clerk’s office on Monday, the 10th, and a committee of their number, consisting of Franklin Blades, C. F. McNeill and Kendall Shankland, were appointed to superintend the removal of the county offices. The board then adjourned, “to meet at 9 o’clock to-morrow, in the lower room of the building occupied as a school-house, situate on lot No. 11, in block No. 20, in the town of Watseka.” This building was declared to be the court-house of Iroquois county, and the first floor was used for the county clerk’s and treasurer’s offices, and the county court and supervisors’ room. The office procured for the circuit clerk was on lot 6, block 27. This officer moved perhaps not fewer than half a dozen times.

#### BUILDING OF THE PRESENT COURT-HOUSE.

At the May meeting, begun on the 2d, C. F. McNeill, A. S. Palmer and K. Shankland, previously appointed to receive and examine the different propositions for the location of a public square, reported, recommending lots 4 to 13, inclusive, in block 29, which were offered to be partly donated and partly sold, about \$1,600 being demanded for them. The recommendation of the committee was adopted and war-

ranty deeds procured. Lots 4 and 13 on the east side of this purchase were set off for a public street named Lincoln, and the remainder were declared to be the permanent public square of the county seat upon which to erect the court-house and offices. Micajah Stanley donated and conveyed to the county eight lots, in pursuance of a prior agreement. Watseka had given bond to erect temporary county offices in case of removal. A proposition was now received from citizens of the town to exchange for that obligation a subscription of \$2,500, on condition that it be applied to the immediate construction of a permanent court-house. This was accepted, and a written agreement, made May 26, 1865, with the provision that one-half be paid when the brick for the edifice should all be burned; and the giving of this sum was declared to be a release from all other obligations to furnish temporary buildings for the use of the county. Franklin Blades, C. F. McNeill and A. S. Palmer were appointed a building committee, and authorized to contract for the burning of 400,000 brick; to advertise for and receive sealed proposals to build a court-house either of stone or of brick, to be 50×70 feet: the lower story twelve and the upper twenty feet high, with suitable rooms for the circuit and county courts and board of supervisors, the circuit and county clerks and treasurer; also grand and petit-jury rooms, and two fire-proof vaults. The building was required to be completed and ready for use by November 1, 1866. The committee was further authorized to adopt all the details of the plan and to let the contract. These and other instructions were given at different meetings of the board as occasion demanded. They were directed to offer in payment one half of the contract price on March 1, 1866, and the other on March 1, 1867, with the privilege, if they found it expedient to use county orders, to require the clerk to issue the whole or any part of them. At the August meeting it was resolved that the whole cost of the "court-house and jail" should not exceed \$25,000, and subsequently the building committee were instructed to sell "the town lots lately donated to the county by the citizens of Watseka." C. B. Leach, architect, furnished plan and specifications, for which the board allowed him \$300. On August 23 the committee opened the sealed bids in the presence of the county clerk and president of the board. Strother Moore, of Lafayette, Indiana, was the lowest bidder for the contract, which was awarded to him for \$22,700. Charles O. Gorman, of Peoria, having made a bid to Moore for a portion of the building, upon request, it was agreed to make the contract with both of them. On November 24, when the board were again in session, the contract and bond not having been signed by the contractors, the committee were instructed to notify Moore to attend



to that by January 1, at the expiration of which time, if that should not be done, the committee would relet the contract. They were furthermore authorized to enlarge the contract so as to include a basement and jail under the court-house, the total cost of the structure not to exceed \$28,000.

On January 2, 1866, the contract was relet to Amzi C. Mantor, of Iroquois county, who was to furnish all the materials and labor necessary, and to have the building completed by November 1, "except the seating and railing and judge's desk within the circuit court room, and the inside painting of the entire building, and that said court-house and jail should be entirely completed on or before February 1, 1867." He was to receive \$28,000 in installments, as follows: \$10,000 March 1, \$4,000 June 1, 1866; and \$14,000 March 1, 1867. In lieu of the last payment he was to take, at his option, county orders as the work progressed, but for no greater amount than the value of the labor and materials furnished, the committee to determine the amount. Mantor gave bond, with W. B. Fleager, Benjamin Fry, Jesse Eastburn, C. Secrest, Charles Sherman, Micajah Stanley and Putnam Gaffield as sureties. In May, a new board having assembled, E. C. Hall, of Onarga, was appointed on the building committee in place of A. S. Palmer, not returned this year. The edifice was completed, and full settlement made agreeably to the contract, and at the May meeting in 1867 the board tendered Mr. Mantor their cordial thanks for the fidelity with which he had "in every respect and under all circumstances" fulfilled his engagements. A portion of the basement was fitted and furnished by the committee for apartments to be occupied by the jailor's family.

In May, 1867, \$1,546.25 had been paid by the citizens of Watseka on their individual subscription, leaving an unpaid balance of \$953.75. At this time J. A. Koplin, A. S. Palmer and J. W. Williams were appointed to ascertain if it could be collected; and none of it having been paid, at the annual meeting in September the list was placed in the hands of a committee, consisting of A. G. Willard, K. Shankland and Thomas Stump, with instructions to enforce the collection of the same. A year later A. Honeywell and A. J. Alexander were added to the committee, and at the May term, 1869, this special committee was directed to bring immediate suit, in their discretion, on any unpaid amounts. A report, submitted by Blades & Kay, collection attorneys, to the December meeting in 1871, shows only a very small portion collected. Here the matter rests.

## BURNING OF THE COUNTY OFFICES AND PARTIAL LOSS OF RECORDS.

At two o'clock on the morning of October 16, 1866, the buildings occupied for county offices were destroyed by fire. The school-house already mentioned as situated on lot 11, block 20 (where Bishop's furniture store now stands), was occupied below by the county judge, county clerk and county treasurer, as previously described, and the upper story was used for the public school. The fire, supposed to be incendiary, originated in this building, and the wind blowing strongly from the northeast at the time, communicated the flames to the wooden structure adjoining on the west, in which the circuit clerk's office was then situated. Regarding the loss of books and records and the damage to them, Judge McNeill wrote, in answer to the request of the editor of the "Republican": "All the following records were preserved complete: All the books and papers pertaining to the office of the clerk of the circuit court, and also the following records belonging to the county clerk's office, to wit, the land book, the swamp land record, the probate claim dockets, running back to January 4, 1859; the executors, administrators and guardians' records since 1860, and the railroad tax book. In addition to the above, most of the important records were dug out of the fire, only partly burned, and it is hoped that we shall be able to decipher most of the important matters belonging to the county court. By the assistance of those interested in the estates, and perhaps some necessary legislation, the county court will be able to straighten up most all of the important matters of that court. All executors, administrators and guardians will be required to file new bonds, and render just accounts of all estate matters in their hands, as soon as practicable. Perhaps the most serious loss of the whole is the destruction of the will records, as many of our land titles are derived from that source. If those interested take immediate steps, by proper legal proceedings, to quiet their titles while the necessary evidences to do so are attainable, most of this evil may be avoided. . . . The orders and decrees of the county court in all administrators' and executors' sales of real estate are preserved in full in the deeds made on such sales." Fortunately, in January, 1865, the board of supervisors had appropriated \$300 to assist Judge McNeill in making an abstract of the land titles in the county. As the abstract was to be used by the judge in his private business, this occasioned some complaint; but this fire proved the foresight of the board, and justified their action. In addition to those mentioned as destroyed, the record of the proceedings of the board of supervisors, and the assessors' and collectors' books were lost. The former was restored from September

23, 1861, by reference to newspaper files, supervisors Honeywell and McNeill being appointed by the board and charged with that important duty. The county clerk, under instructions of the board, made new assessors' books, and those township officers copied and returned, at the expense of the county, the assessment of their several towns. A committee, consisting of C. F. McNeill, chairman, Samuel Williams and Alba Honeywell, was appointed to prepare a bill to be presented to the legislature for passage, to aid in restoring the records and tax levies, and to legalize the same. This trust they performed, and the act was approved and became a law January 30, 1867. We have once before alluded to the destruction of the commissioners' record, the journal of the county court and the supervisors' record to the date above mentioned, as having entailed upon us a heavy task in the preparation of some portion of these pages, and we dare not hope that for the want of information which they would have furnished we have not fallen into some errors.

#### POLITICAL HISTORY.

The political or, more strictly, partisan history of the county was comparatively uneventful and uninteresting till the organization of the republican party, and the presidential campaign of 1856. Anterior to this time Iroquois county had been uniformly democratic. Passing the many active members of that party, we can find room to mention only the most prominent: Hugh Newell, Isaac Courtright, Micajah Stanley, Samuel M. Ayres, Major John Strickler, Samuel McFall, Samuel Harper, Sr., John Chamberlain, Joseph Thomas, Aaron M. Goodnow and John Wilson. Courtright served two terms in the legislature, and Stanley and Thomas one each. As the early presidential votes show, the whigs were greatly in the minority. Robert Hill, Edward D. Boone, James Smith, Ira Lindsey, Lewis Roberts and Col. Thomas Vennum were the leading men of this party.

In May, 1856, the "Iroquois Republican" was started by J. A. Graham and D. T. Lindley, with Jesse Bennett and Franklin Blades as editors. The former, though the senior, was only an occasional contributor. Blades was a young physician, animated, as most young men are, by a high purpose, a pure devotion, and an ardent attachment to the principles of political unity and universal freedom. Closing his salutatory, which was a vigorous announcement of the position the paper would maintain, with this terse and manly avowal, "Here we stand, God help us," which gave token of the strength, courage and earnestness with which he would do battle for human rights, he modestly accepted the visible leadership of his political associates, and



marshaled them for the conflict. Throughout that memorable campaign the fiery and enthusiastic notes of a dashing championship rang out in all the utterances of the "Republican." Owen Lovejoy was the candidate for congress from this district. On August 7 a mass meeting was held at Middleport, which was a notable event in connection with the change in the tide of politics in this county. It was in every way a county affair, and the first really distinctive outpouring that had ever been awakened in Iroquois county. Because of the general and permanent interest which will always attach to it, we subjoin almost entire the account given of it by Dr. Blades. "Thursday last inaugurated a new epoch in the politics of our county. In years ago, while nearly the whole country was ablaze with partisan heat and strife, our county hibernated on, and gave back no response to, the enthusiasm that thrilled the nation in heart and limb. But the long to be remembered 7th ignited the very soul of the county, and made it vibrate to all its extremities with the deep, fervent throbbings which have pulsed throughout the nation. That gathering may be surpassed in numbers at some future day, when the county shall have become more densely populated, but it will never be surpassed in earnest enthusiasm. We had not doubted that the convention would be well attended; but when we saw the immense delegations which at an early hour commenced pouring into town from every township, we felt ashamed that we had so greatly underrated the spirit and enterprise of Iroquoisans. The first large delegation came into town from Onarga and the Longshore neighborhood, the two having united a half mile out of town, and were escorted in by the Momence brass band, who did their dusty, tiresome labors on that day cheerfully and creditably to themselves, and much to the grateful entertainment of the occasion. Then came in the Concord and Milford delegations, which united a short distance out of town, and were also gallantly escorted in by the band. Next, the Ash Grove delegation was escorted in by the band. Right nobly did Ash Grove do her duty, considering that the main part of Ash Grove township is twenty miles off. Hundreds came in 'on their own hook.' Altogether, Middleport was never so gloriously overwhelmed as on that day. Never within the memory of the oldest citizen has there been so large and enthusiastic a gathering as literally poured out to greet with warm hearts, and with countenances lit at the altar-fire of liberty, that noble hearted, glorious man, Lovejoy. It is a fair estimate to place the number who were in attendance at 4,000. And when we consider that they were nearly all residents of the county, it is an illustration of how profoundly the 'great deep' of the popular heart has been moved by the wrongs and calamities which

their brethren in Kansas have endured, and how it swells with terrible indignation at the bloody hand of tyranny which sways the scepter of the direst despotism over that doomed territory. After forming into procession under the efficient marshalship of our friend Mark Ayres, assisted by Messrs. J. C. Bryant, D. B. Gardner and F. Blades, the company proceeded to the tables, where were spread out, in bounteous profusion, the good things prepared and furnished by fair hands from every part of the county. . . . Dr. Fithian, the elector for this district, first addressed the meeting with force and point for nearly an hour; but his voice failing—he is in feeble health—he was obliged to desist. After a soul-stirring glee or two by the Onarga glee club, and a spirited air by the band, Owen Lovejoy ascended the stand, and for over two hours poured forth the charming eloquence of his musical soul to an audience as spell-bound as was ever transfixed by the magic tongue of eloquence. We do not wish to praise or express admiration by rote, but we will say that we never heard that speech surpassed. He moved the hearts of the great throng as we never saw them moved before, and the upturned eyes, oft filled with tears, told in language stronger than mere utterance that humanity has its instinctive, spontaneous, irresistible sympathies for human woe and bondage, in whatever of its protean horrors it presents itself. Owen Lovejoy is this day more secure in the affections of the people than any other man may soon hope to attain to. He is a noble, generous, glorious, frank-hearted, good man. It was luxurious to witness how completely and triumphantly he vindicated his past life from the aspersions and slanders that have been heaped upon him. Most of all, his irresistible defense of his position as a national man, in every true sense of that term, was grand and soul-stirring in the highest degree. Said he, ‘If we succeed in electing a president, we will neither dissolve the Union ourselves, nor let any other party do it.’ To which we said in our hearts, Amen! and all the people said, Amen! Amen!! His apostrophe to the constitution we expect never to hear surpassed in patriotic eloquence.”

Dr. Blades was nominated one of the republican candidates for representative to the general assembly from this district, and was elected over his competitor, Micajah Stanley, by a majority of 162 votes, the total number cast for both being 1,302. The county went republican by majorities ranging from 154 to 290,—the first time in its history of twenty-two years that it disavowed faith in the shibboleth of democracy. No man contributed more to this result than Dr. Blades. For a few years following this triumph the county alternated between the supremacy of the two parties. In 1857 the democrats were successful at the polls, Judge Chamberlain heading the ticket for reelection. The

total vote was 1,269, as against 1,318 the year before. The one reflected the views on local and the other on national issues. In 1858 the county gave a republican majority, and again in 1860. A union and a republican ticket was in the field in 1861. This year the swamp-land question was once more a topic of discussion. A public fear of litigation was to some extent excited by those interested in the union nominations. Some of the most respectable republicans gave their active influence to this ticket. The republicans generally were desirous of uniting all in a hearty support of the war, and to that end were anxious to testify their magnanimity by sharing the offices with their opponents. Samuel Williams was candidate for county judge on the union ticket, and being an old citizen, enjoying the full confidence of the people, was elected. The full ticket was successful.

During the early stage of the war Judge McNeill conducted the "Republican." He forecasted events with uncommon clearness, and by his radical and steadfast sentiments contributed largely toward educating and unifying the war feeling. Scarcely could a man have so good a monument from other material. For many years since that time, as a few before, he exercised a controlling and creating influence in the republican party of this county. No hands have done more toward its upbuilding. Others planted, but he has weeded and watered and trained with an unselfish and sacrificing devotion. From that time to this the county has been strongly republican on questions of national debate. In local politics, however, since 1873 there has been nearly an even division of success between the republican and independent parties. We attempt only a brief account of the two salient political events in the history of the county. The revolution of 1873 and the good results following it mark a distinct epoch. The reforms introduced by the constitution of 1870 were everywhere reluctantly accepted by the office-holders, whose ideas of compensation had been gradually formed by the powerful influence of the fees and perquisites of the old system. Under that had been produced a set of unwritten maxims, and practices not more real, disorganizing in their moral effects, but cohesive otherwise, which had originated in every shire town a central authority styled "the ring." When by the altered circumstances the incumbents were constrained to take smaller pay in salaries, which were not, unlike the former pay, adequate to lay the foundations of respectable fortunes, they naturally felt that it was an effectual, if not ingenious, scheme of oppression. That they did not promptly come forward, upon the inception of the new system, and offer zealous suggestions how to put the machine in motion and keep it in running order, so as to secure the most effective results, ought



not to create astonishment, though it did provoke criticism. It would have been expecting too much to think that they could be conspicuous sympathizers with the new plan. It was not enough that a remote decision had been pronounced in adopting the constitution. A radically curative effort by the people, displayed in tearing away from old affiliations and assuming independent fellowship, in which they should remove their own positive sanction solemnly given at the polls, was necessary. To have indorsed the same men,—in other words, the old means of perpetuating power, would have defeated the object. Until they could raise themselves to this plane of a better manhood and citizenship, it were but putting new wine into old bottles. Incurable education unfitted the old vessels for the active virtues of the new compound. A new system required new men. The occasion for obtaining them was not long wanting. It was of no consequence that the popular agitation was incited by a wholly extraneous cause, or a cause combining with it many lesser ones. The people were ripe for the occasion when it came. Abuses in office and out of office, in business and out of business, in private and in public,—abuses everywhere, touching the financial affairs and operations of men,—had produced in the public mind, more especially of the “bone and sinew” of the land, patronizingly so called, a just sense that the burdens of government and of society were unequally distributed. Being hard pressed from every side, it is not surprising that in the general ferment they often struck wildly, and perhaps with too little moderation. But an important work was to be done, and it took blows to do it. It was unfortunate personally for those of the opposition upon whom devolved the leadership. In this county a long tenure of power, whose insecurity was never suspected, had made the dominant party remiss. The managers saw in the supremacy of their organization only spoils for division among themselves. The suffrage of the people was a public means to private ends. The overshadowing prominence of national measures took all their attention, and the local politicians were prosperous when the eyes of their constituents were turned away. Pains were not taken to inform the people of the state of county affairs, but rather there was a careful effort to withhold such knowledge. The system of accounting showed either a misconception of the law, or an evasion of it, and the fiscal statements confused instead of enlightening those who were entitled to know the condition of public business; indeed, it has been truly said that even the treasurer was not often able to furnish very definite information. The treasury was run in the interest of a few individuals. County orders sold at from twenty-five to fifty per cent discount. With a change of power, however, came a sudden improve-

ment of affairs. The Augean stables were cleaned out. Care and economy succeeded waste and extravagance. County orders were honored at the desk of the treasurer. The public interests shot into the ascendant. About January 16, 1873, a convention of the farmers of Illinois was held at Bloomington, pursuant to a call, by a convention of a few clubs held at Kewanee, Henry county. A large representation from clubs and granges, together with prominent men from different parts of the state, assembled to inquire into the cause for unpaid labor, and to deliberate upon a remedy. The chief subject of discussion was the extortionate tariffs of railroad monopolies, and the defiance by such monopolies of the lawful authority of the state. An association was organized, and the farmers of Illinois were advised to form clubs auxiliary to the same, for the agitation of questions affecting their interests. At this time the grange organization was almost universally unknown. In this state not a dozen were in existence, and these were limited to Lee and Whiteside counties. A few persons from Iroquois county were present at the state convention; the only ones now remembered were A. J. Alexander, of Gilman; George B. Fickle, of Onarga; and R. G. Campbell, of Loda. Fickle was a delegate from the Onarga Horticultural Society. Campbell represented the Farmers' Protective Association, of which he was president. This was organized at Loda, and incorporated under the laws of the state, November 30, 1871; and was the first farmers' club in the county, and the only one of the kind. On his return, a meeting was advertised to be held at Loda on the 25th, to ratify the action of the Bloomington convention, and to organize under the state association. It was largely attended, and earnest addresses were delivered. A similar meeting was held on the same day at Onarga, and about the same time another at Gilman, called by Mr. Alexander, who had been appointed to attend to the organizing of Iroquois county. Permanent clubs were formed at all these places. Others rapidly followed, and the press at once teemed with their proceedings. The whole country was soon ablaze. This was the secret of the wonderful spread of the order of Patrons of Husbandry, which was wholly distinct from the Illinois State Farmers' Association. For a while there was a little rivalry between the two grand organizations, but on the whole they worked harmoniously together for the same general objects. Iroquois county was soon well organized. In eighteen months about fifty of these bodies were meeting regularly, nearly three-fourths being granges.

On the assembling of congress, after the presidential election of 1872, the credit mobilier, which had been unearthed during the campaign, was investigated and thoroughly exposed. Following close

upon this came the salary grab by congress, approved by the president. The public mind was deeply affected by these events. Added to the grinding extortion practiced by the railroad corporations, these moral forces engendered a state of feeling that very early in the year took positive political form. High protective tariff and other causes added their full share to the result. The evils complained of as heavily borne were understood to run through every branch of the public service from the national administration down to the lowest office. "These," said the "Gilman Star," of that date, "are the causes that make men forget their differences and labor for each other's welfare." Indeed, the grievances were real and deep-rooted, and like true men whom a common danger threatened, the people dropped all contention. The press throughout the country, with great unanimity, applauded the movement, and welcomed it as a sign of coming good. Notably in some cases the attempt was undertaken to make it turn the old party mills, but with signal failure. Never did men set about the accomplishment of an object with a firmer purpose, nor a more rational conception of their aims and duties. The "Iroquois Times," "Gilman Star" and "Onarga Review" supported the farmers' cause politically, while the "Watseka Republican," advocating the railroad reforms demanded by the new movement, chose to labor for them within the party. On July 14 the republican central committee met at Watseka for consultation. Several of the principal men of the party, not members of the committee, were present by invitation, and freely advised concerning the best course of action. A contrariety of views were entertained. A "people's anti-monopoly convention" was called for August 26, to nominate candidates for county offices. This was a clear abandonment of the party name; but not, as was shrewdly suspected and finally developed, a sincere abandonment of the party organization. That this was a mistake, no well-informed republican will now deny. Whatever the motives for this change may have been, we regard them now as of little moment; still the decision was disastrous to the integrity of the organization, if at that time that was worth a consideration. The chairman, Z. Beatty, was a partisan of the inflexible type, whose spirit was such in this business that it was not necessary for him to make a special effort to give the proceeding, which he did not indorse, such an odor as to make it seem perhaps worse than it really was—even disingenuous. His name appended to any political call determined its absolute character. The only question from first to last for the farmers to decide was whether they should undertake to accomplish their desires within the republican party, to which a large majority of them belonged, or whether it should be attempted by a new



and distinct organization. The action of the republican committee was interpreted to have been the result of temporizing motives, and hence when the hour for a new departure came there was scarcely a breath of controversy, and the opposition that was made was so wanting in strength as not to command even respectful consideration. It was soon clearly seen that the committee had missed the popular chord, for expressions denoting a different wish were becoming numerous. This dissatisfaction was first made known by the Sheldon Club, and afterward by those of Milford, Gilman, Iroquois and Middleport, the two last of which separately issued calls for a farmers' convention, to be held in Watseka on August 8, "for the purpose," as expressed by the last club, "of taking into consideration the propriety of going into the people's anti-monopoly convention, already called, or to determine under existing circumstances whether it is expedient to call a farmers' convention, and, if found to be expedient, to call such a convention and apportion the delegates to the same." The 8th of August brought together fifty-seven representatives of twenty-one organizations. A. J. Alexander was made president, and Henry Phelps and George T. Metzger, secretaries. An interchange of views on the question which the convention had been called to decide took place. There was great unanimity. Only four, of whom the writer was one, advocated turning out to the primaries, and sending delegates of our own to the anti-monopoly convention to control it in our interest. The sentiment in favor of holding an independent convention was so strong that the majority were impatient of opposition so slight, and had it not been for the extreme fairness of the president the minority would not have been fully heard. A central committee of twenty-four, one from each club and grange, was appointed, and instructed to issue a call for a convention; this they did before the adjournment, fixing the representation at three from each organization, and naming the 25th as the day for holding the convention. This was one day earlier than the anti-monopoly convention, and was so ordered to take a fearless and independent departure. This new plan of representation had a powerful effect in promoting the organization of farmers' clubs. The interval was improved by such as were intent on party-making and had a malady for office.

On the 25th, 38 clubs and granges sent 106 delegates, entitled to 114 votes. A. B. Caldwell, of Sheldon, was elected chairman; H. A. Butzow, of Iroquois township, secretary, and George T. Metzger, of Onarga, assistant secretary. On the first regular ballot Manliff B. Wright, a young and rising attorney of Watseka, was nominated for county judge. This nomination was not unexpected. Mr. Wright had canvassed the

county in his own interest, and made a good many friends. He stood well in his profession, and it was understood that he was the preference of the bar. His antecedents were democratic, and this was pleasing to one wing of the convention. After events proved this to be a fortunate choice, not more for his ability as a politician than for his merit as a judicial officer. For all the offices except that of county clerk announcements had been made. On account of his superior qualifications, and personal popularity, S. C. Munhall, who had been a deputy in that office seven or eight years, was regarded as the only candidate. Not until after the calling of the independent convention was any other person thought of; but when events had gone so far that the new departure began to look around for untrammelled men, Henry A. Butzow, a German citizen, of Iroquois township, was mentioned by his friends. On the informal ballot 109 votes were cast, of which he received 45, and Munhall, 59. The next vote revealed a tie of 57. From a graphic history of the political events of this period, published in the "Times" a year or two since, we quote: "At this moment there was intense excitement. If Mr. Munhall had been willing to rest his chances of election on this single nomination it would have been his. A dozen delegates pressed around him for an instant to hear what he had to say. When they returned to their places his defeat was certain." He was momentarily paralyzed. The supreme situation burst suddenly upon him and was gone. The second formal ballot gave Butzow 77, to 32 for his opponent; and this "short, sharp and decisive" contest was closed. Continuing to quote from the same source concerning Munhall: "It was probable that his sympathies were warmly enlisted on the side of the people among whom he lived. Perhaps the objection felt to him was that he was allied with, and was the candidate of, the men whose manipulations of county affairs it was hoped to defeat. The democrats of the convention doubtless remembered that he had always been a republican, yet on the informal ballot he had more votes than any of his opponents." And in regard to Butzow: "This nomination proved most fortunate. The nominee was little known at the time outside of his own town, but he developed unlooked for ability, and made a spirited and successful canvass. He was thoroughly in sympathy with the movement." On the third formal ballot George T. Metzger, of Onarga, was nominated for treasurer, and, on the fourth, David Kerr, of Gilman, for school superintendent. The committee on resolutions, W. E. Knibloe, O. H. Bales, J. F. Good, D. Brumback and R. Caldwell, reported a set which are of more than transient value. They were widely commented on, and elicited many expressions of approval from the country and metropoli-

tan press. Their "eternal fitness" will justify us in reproducing them entire:

#### THE FARMERS' PLATFORM.

##### PREAMBLE.

We, the people of Iroquois county, who are opposed to monopolies, regardless of former political opinions or party affiliations, do hereby ratify and confirm the following resolutions, as an honest expression of our opinions and the basis of our future political action:

*Resolved*, That every man should earn the pay he receives and receive the pay he earns, and that every contest between labor and capital should be settled upon this principle; that we are desirous of political reform, and of honesty, economy and purity in all official administration. To secure this is the duty of every citizen, and that to this end every good man should feel bound to participate in politics and make an end of bad men forcing their election by securing a party nomination. We declare it the duty of every citizen to oppose the election of a bad and incompetent official, whether on our own or any other ticket; that we demand the strictest economy in national, state and county affairs, and absolute responsibility in all official relations, deprecating every violation and departure from the strictest official integrity, and insisting that every such violation shall at once be brought to the attention of the county courts, and that the salaries of officers shall be reduced and fixed so as to give fair compensation for services, but the same shall not be excessive; that we are opposed to all class legislation, either state or national; that we are opposed to monopolies of any kind; that a law compelling one man to pay tax to support the business of another is nothing less than legalized robbery; that a protective tariff is the basis of all monopolies, and that we are in favor of free iron and steel, salt and lumber, sugar, coffee, tea, woolen and cotton fabrics, and if a tariff is justifiable at all it should be for revenue purposes only; that agriculture is the basis of wealth and power; that all other branches of business depend on the success of the farmer; therefore we believe that the farmer should be represented in every branch of the government, legislative, judicial and executive, and that we pledge ourselves to support for office men who are interested in the prosperity of the farmer, and none others; that we recognize the great benefits to be derived from railroads in the transportation of freight and passengers, and in developing sections of country that would be almost useless without them, we yet deny that the corporations controlling them are superior to the power that gave them existence, but that they are subject to legislation, as much so as individuals; that our member of the board of equalization be and he hereby is instructed to



use his influence to assess railroads and railroad property at as near its cash value as real estate and other property has been assessed in this state; that we denounce, in unqualified terms, the act of congress increasing their pay, commonly known as "the salary-grab," and pledge ourselves not to vote for nor support any man for office who voted for the bill or accepted the unjust pay.

No other convention has been held, since the republican party obtained undisputed power in the county, which has furnished so important a lesson or been attended with so valuable results. On the following day the antimonopoly convention met. The party labored under the weight of a great mistake. In trimming to catch the breeze it had parted with the symbol of its strength, and courted a crushing defeat for despising the banner of many victories.



In a spiritless manner the convention went through the formality of making nominations. R. K. McIntyre, of Middleport, an old and respected member of the Iroquois bar, was nominated for county judge; S. C. Munhall for county clerk; B. F. Price, a one-armed veteran soldier, of Loda, for treasurer, and John A. Holmes, of Milford, for superintendent of schools. The resolutions were a complete travesty—churlish, puerile, ambiguous, a reflection of the melancholy, confused sense which had fallen upon the convention when they found themselves forced to battle on a false and disadvantageous ground. The canvass was carried on with spirit by the new party, which continued to have the support of the papers before mentioned. The "Republican" having labored with faithful zeal, before the unfortunate action of the central committee, to preserve the integrity of its party, now made but feeble effort to maintain the unequal contest. The

election occurred November 4. Wright's majority was 1,260; Butzow's, 300; Metzger's, 320, and Kerr's, 487. The highest number of votes cast was 3,118.

#### CHICAGO & EASTERN ILLINOIS RAILROAD.

Although this is a comparatively new road, it must not be presumed that consequently it should be placed among the list of unimportant lines, for just the very opposite is the fact. However much older roads have assumed in the credit of opening up and developing this part of the state, no less can, in justice, be said of the line under consideration. Let any one take a map of eastern Illinois published prior to 1870, and he will observe that much of what is now known as the most desirable portions of the state was entirely without railroad facilities. Some places through which this line now passes were forty miles from a railroad station. It will therefore be seen under what disadvantages this part of the country labored, and a good reason will easily be discovered for its tardy development. Then, also, the country including the eastern part of this county, and much more valuable country, was cut off entirely from communication with the great metropolis of the west, Chicago. It is, therefore, not surprising that so complete and prosperous a road as the Chicago & Eastern Illinois railroad should be built up in eight years, for its construction was an urgent necessity, and it takes no philosopher to comprehend that the causes which led to the building of the road will ultimately make it the most important line passing through this section. While numberless roads have been projected, and many built, in different portions of the state, wherever local pride or an itching for speculation could secure the needed aid, with few exceptions they have not only proved failures, but have bankrupted and disgusted their patrons. This line, however, unlike nearly all born under the peculiar law passed by the Illinois legislature but a short time before, has gradually, from the first, gained in public favor, and though it received donations from the townships through which it was built, there are few persons, and perhaps none, who regret having aided so worthy an enterprise.

The Illinois Central railroad had not long been built when its apparent advantages stimulated thoughts of a parallel route from Paris, in Edgar county, through Georgetown, Danville and Momence, to Chicago. A proposition to this effect took tangible shape in 1857, when the Paris and Chicago Railroad Company was chartered. Many of the projectors living along the line were men whose names are distinctly associated with a past day, among them, Dr. William Fithian, Judge Joseph Peters, Hiram Sandford and William A. Chatfield.

The road was never built. In 1865 William D. Judson, Joseph E. Young, James M. Walker, Joseph Peters, John C. Short, Alvan Gilbert, C. A. Lake, James K. Ritchie and William Kile incorporated the Chicago, Danville & Vincennes Railroad Company. The route defined in the charter was "from a point in Lawrence county, on the Wabash river, opposite Vincennes, in the state of Indiana, upon the most eligible route to and into the city of Chicago, by way of Paris in Edgar county, and Danville in Vermilion county." When in 1867 had been inaugurated the vicious system of railroad construction, whereby the people graded the roads, and donated them to penniless and "soulless" corporations, this act was found not to answer the improved methods that had come into use. It gave power to the directors only "to take and receive subscriptions to their capital stock," except that they might "acquire by donation, stock subscription or purchase, and dispose and convey, as they might deem expedient, real estate and coal and mineral lands, not exceeding \$1,000." It was originally intended to run the road through the towns of Concord and Sheldon, and the survey was made on that route, the company having the right of way. But when Watseka began to show a lively disposition to secure the road at that place, the design was conceived of locating it on the line which would contribute the most, the company not being very particular which should be chosen, but likely preferring the Sheldon route, as that was a little shorter. Watseka, always strategic, thwarted the purpose of the company to profit by this rivalry, as also any sincere intention which it may have had as to the first survey. An amendatory act, to enable the company to obtain contributions, was an immediate and pressing want of that corporation. Watseka interested John L. Tinch, state senator, through whose influence the charter was originally obtained, and Capt. George E. King, representative, to defeat the legislation they were seeking, unless they should consent to locate the road through that place. This being arranged, they obtained "an act to authorize cities, towns or townships lying within certain limits to appropriate moneys and levy a tax to aid the construction" of the road, approved March 7, 1867. This provided that the donations should not be paid till after the road was located and built through the town or city making the donation, and not till it had first been authorized by a vote of the people. The authorities were empowered to levy a tax to pay any contribution voted. The legislature passed another act in 1869 to aid in the building of this road, which permitted the corporate authorities (the appropriation having first been voted by the people) to levy taxes to meet any such donations, or to borrow money and issue bonds in payment of them, provided that the



road should first be completed through or opposite to any town so contributing aid. The towns lying along the route voted aid to this company at different times from 1867 to 1870 as follows:

On May 14, 1867, Milford voted \$20,250. Afterward Lovejoy was set off, and on April 24, 1868, the authorities of the two towns made an apportionment of this liability, Milford taking \$14,242.87. On July 10, 1868, the town voted an additional \$4,500, making a total of \$18,742.87. The supervisor and town clerk issued bonds of the town to the amount of 20,617.15. In addition to the share accepted by Lovejoy, on July 3, 1868, that town held an election and voted the sum of \$3,000, making the total aid granted \$9,007.13. John B. Wilson, supervisor, and Joseph Galloway, town clerk, issued, March 31, 1871, ten bonds of \$1,000 each. Three of them were made payable July 1, 1879; three in one year from that date, and four in two years. The Bank of Warsaw, New York, owns eight; John Powers, of Buffalo, one, and Allen Gilmore, of Ogdensburg, the other. On June 5, 1867, the city of Watseka voted \$5,000, to be paid on condition that the company should make that place a point on the road. On May 23, 1870, another election was held, and \$6,000 more were voted. The city council directed the mayor and the clerk to issue \$11,000 of bonds, which were dated February 1, 1871. On June 8, 1867, an election was held in the town of Middleport for a "tax of \$15,000," on condition that the road should be built through Watseka. Bonds amounting to \$16,500 were issued February 20, 1871. On the 13th a contract was made between the supervisor and the town clerk of the first part, and the railroad company of the second part, and George C. Tallman, of Brooklyn, New York, as trustee of the third part, by which agreement the bonds were delivered to Tallman, to be by him delivered to the company, if the track should be laid to the crossing of the Toledo, Peoria and Warsaw railroad by June 1, 1871. These were placed with Tallman to get them out of the state, so the issuing of them could not be enjoined. At the request of the company these bonds were taken up and destroyed, and others issued to the amount of \$15,000, dated March 24, 1871. About the middle of July the supervisor, by order of the town board entered in April, paid J. E. Young, contractor, \$1,500, in lieu of the extra bonds which had before been issued. The fifteen bonds were delivered to the company by Tallman on June 21. The first coupons (fifteen of \$100 each), due June 1, he detached and returned to the supervisor. By a vote, taken June 10, 1867, Belmont donated \$9,000; and again, on June 2, 1868, at an election held for that purpose, voted an additional \$9,000. In September, 1868, the town of Crescent (then Grenard) was detached. On March 23,

1871, the supervisors and assessors of the two towns divided the indebtedness, Belmont taking \$14,400, and Crescent, \$3,600. The supervisor and town clerk of Belmont then issued \$14,000 of bonds of that date, and delivered to Tallman, to be held in trust and delivered to the company if the road should be completed to the south side of the township before January 1, 1872, otherwise to be returned. They were made payable July 1, 1881, at the American Exchange National Bank, of New York, the town reserving the privilege to pay them any time after two years from their issue. On April 5, the same town officers issued another bond similar to the others, which they put into the hands of C. Secrest for a like purpose as those deposited with Tallman. The bonds were all delivered to the company about the last of June for ninety per cent of their face value; and on March 26 the supervisor paid the company \$702.72, and Crescent assumed the further sum of \$36, included in that amount. The bonds were sold in New York city, and are now owned by the Aetna Life Insurance Company. On March 23 the supervisor and town clerk of Crescent issued \$4,000 of bonds to pay the \$3,600. These were made payable July 1, 1881. Martinton, by a vote of 55 to 42, June 13, 1868, granted the aid of that town for \$10,000. In the latter part of August, 1872, the supervisor issued eleven \$1,000 bonds, dated July 1, 1872, payable in ten years; and also paid the company \$175. By a vote of 67 to 44, on August 4, 1870, Papineau donated \$6,350. On April 13, 1871, John M. Burton, supervisor, and P. Laplante, town clerk, issued six \$1,000 bonds, one payable March 1 of each year, beginning with 1875. The principal and interest were payable at the Mechanics National Bank, of Chicago. Concord voted aid on the condition that the road should be constructed through that town where first surveyed. Notwithstanding the route was afterward diverted to Watseka, the supervisor issued bonds for \$25,000, dated June 1, 1871, and due in ten years. Bonds of Sheldon were issued the same day to the amount of \$25,000, and made payable also in ten years. The bonds of Stockland for \$6,750 were issued in August of the same year. They have all been paid. Prairie Green held an election July 3, 1868, and appropriated \$6,000, to be paid when the track should be laid through Lovejoy. About September 1, 1871, six \$1,000 were issued, and one for \$600, to make good any discount in negotiating them. These were due July 1, 1879. They were held by persons in Brunswick, Cumberland county, Maine. Ash Grove voted \$3,000, August 12, 1868. In September a part of this town was detached, and Fountain Creek created. In the division the parent town retained \$1,892, and the new town acquired \$1,408. The two towns issued bonds bearing date July

1, 1871. The Ash Grove issue fell due July 1, 1876, at which time new bonds were given. The Fountain Creek bonds mature ten years from date. When a part of the latter town was taken, in 1875, to form Pigeon Grove, this new town accepted \$365.24 of the bonded indebtedness.

All of these bonds bore ten per cent interest, payable annually. Where an amount was given in excess of that voted, it was to make good the discount in negotiating them. They were registered in the office of the auditor of public accounts, pursuant to the provisions of "an act to fund and provide for paying the railroad debts of counties, cities and towns," passed in 1869. On September 17, 1868, the board of supervisors being in session, Mr. Honeywell, supervisor from Stockland, offered a resolution, which was adopted, loaning to the Chicago, Danville & Vincennes Railroad Company the credit of the county to the amount of \$35,000 for five years. The conditions were that the county should issue bonds drawing ten per cent interest, to be delivered to the company when the road should be completed and in running order from Chicago to the south line of the county, if it should guarantee the payment of the principal, and the delivery of the bonds to the county at maturity, by mortgages on real estate. An additional supposed security for the refunding of the bonds was required if thought to be advisable by the committee to be appointed, in an issue to the county of stock equal to the amount of the bonds, which stock was to be returned on their surrender. The interest was to be paid annually by the county. The benefit to the company was the loan of the county's credit for the gross sum and the aggregate interest which would accrue thereon, and be paid in the term of five years. Before the final adjournment of the board the loan was increased to \$42,000. This was legalized by the legislature, as also the aids voted by the cities, towns and townships along the road, by an act approved February 26, 1869. Action relating to this matter was taken by the board at various times. At the May term, 1871, the committee, consisting of C. F. McNeill, A. Honeywell and Samuel Williams, previously appointed to act on behalf of the board, submitted their report, accompanied by a bond of the company, in the penal sum of \$100,000, to secure the final return of the railroad bonds. They announced that they had caused the bonds to be prepared in denominations of \$1,000 each, and had deposited them in the First National Bank of Watseka, to be re-deposited in the city of New York in trust, and that they had decided to take the stock as additional security. On motion of A. S. Palmer, this stock was refused. The bank, and the stockholders therein, in their individual capacity, were required to give bonds,



making them liable for the return of the county bonds at the proper time. Apprehension was ultimately excited concerning the security of the county against payment of the principal of the loan, and at the annual meeting in September, Mr. Koplin offered a resolution, which was adopted, proposing to turn over to the railroad company an amount of the bonds held in trust by the bank, equivalent to the interest on \$42,000 for five years, and thus make an end of all doubt and prevent any risk being incurred beyond the obligation voluntarily assumed. Consent of the company to this proposition having been obtained, at the October meeting Hon. C. F. McNeill, chairman of the committee, was directed to go to New York and receive the bonds, which had been deposited in the Ninth National Bank, and to make delivery to the railroad company of sixteen of them, and also a county order for \$382.28, these bonds and this order releasing the county from any further obligation to the company. This duty he discharged, and made a report of his doings to the adjourned session in November. These bonds were dated July 1, 1871, and were due in five years. By a mistake in making the record, it was made to appear that they were payable a year earlier. The effect of this will be noticed farther on.

This line was completed through the county and put in operation to Danville in the summer of 1871. Joseph E. Young, of Chicago, one of the corporators, was the contractor, and built the road. The following year a branch from Bismarek, in Vermilion county, was constructed to Brazil, Indiana, giving the company direct access to the celebrated coal fields of Fountain county, in that state. By lease of another route the company was enabled to discontinue the use of this coal branch in the summer of 1879, avoiding by this means the great expense (owing to the number of bridges) of keeping it in running order. There is hardly a more important north and south line of travel in the west than this road, and its location through the heart of a fine farming region, which had hitherto remained comparatively undeveloped, has added millions to the value of property within marketing distance along its course. From 1867 to 1873 railroad building degenerated into a mammoth and reckless speculation, and great stretches of country were banded with these iron tracks of commerce far in advance of any demand for them. But this road was a conspicuous exception. Most of those people to whom it gave a ready market were situated many miles — in some places as far as forty — from railroad accommodations. A single thought upon this subject will convince any one that a total want of transportation facilities practically barred settlement, the extension of agriculture, and the increase of wealth. By the wisdom of the inhabitants this road was favored with liberal aid in this county, as already

shown, as it also was upon other portions of the route, and there has not been, and never can be so long as the people shall adhere to and exercise their right of control over corporations, any cause to regret that they gave it encouragement.

The officials of this company have set a commendable example in listening and making reasonable concessions to the demands of their patrons. The road was originally bonded for \$5,000,000, but by the shrinkage of values in the past few years it has sustained some decrease in like manner as other species of property. In 1874 the company failed, and the business passed into the hands of a receiver, in the person of Gen. A. Anderson, and so continued until April 17, 1877, when the road was bought by a new corporation for \$1,450,000, and the name changed to Chicago & Eastern Illinois. The machine shops are located at Danville, and the general offices are at 123 Dearborn street, Chicago. The chief officials are, F. W. Huidekoper, of Meadville, Pennsylvania, president; O. S. Lyford, superintendent; A. S. Dunham, general passenger agent, and Robert Forsythe, general freight agent. Mr. Dunham has been connected with the road ever since the formation of the first company. This is known as the "Danville route," and furnishes the best communication over the safest connections and through the finest and most picturesque scenery to the far-famed everglades, the land of the sun — Florida.

#### BOUNTY ORDERS AND COUNTY BONDS.

We had purposed to give a full account of the vast outpouring of treasure during the war, but being now on the "ragged edge" of "the last days" granted us by the patient and indulgent publishers, we must omit it, having no doubt that as we have dealt so much with figures, this compulsion will draw from the reader a sigh of relief. Iroquois county did her whole duty in the late war, with money as well as with men. She spent large sums in the support of volunteers' families; she paid recruiting officers liberally; and she voted more than \$135,000 in bounties to soldiers. All honor to her powder-burned sons! All praise to the true hearts at home! On February 15, 1870, the last bounty orders fell due. The amount at that time, less the bounty fund in the treasury, was \$51,926.41. An act had been procured in 1869 authorizing the county to issue bonds not exceeding \$50,000 to refund this interest-bearing debt. At the annual meeting in September, 1869, John A. Koplin, A. J. Alexander and F. J. Sears were appointed to negotiate the loan. They effected the sale of the bonds to George C. Tallman at ninety cents on the dollar. These were payable February 15, 1875. The bonded indebtedness now amounted

to \$66,000. It has been shown that, by an error in the record, the board were led a few years later to suppose that the railroad bonds would become due July 1, 1875. This body gave timely attention to the maturing liability, and at the November election in 1874 submitted to the people the question of replacing the old with a new issue. This was authorized by a large majority. At the December meeting Mr. Alexander presented a plan for an issue to accomplish the gradual extinction of this debt. He had taken the principal interest in the refunding, and was unanimously selected as one of a committee of three, the other members of which he, as chairman of the board, was to appoint, whose duty it should be, after causing the bonds to be prepared, to negotiate them to the best advantage. About the beginning of the year they placed the entire issue with D. K. Pearsons & Co., of Chicago, at par in New York exchange. Judge Wood was employed to draft the bonds in approved form, and to attend to their lithographing. On February 15 the \$50,000, with accrued interest of \$5,000, became due, and was paid at the American Exchange National Bank, New York, and the remaining \$11,000 was deposited in the First National Bank of Chicago. The time approaching when it was supposed that the railroad bonds would be due, a remittance was made to the Ninth National Bank of New York; but the time came and passed without presentation of the bonds. The existence of this error was first learned on addressing one of the holders. They refused to surrender them until due, and the committee withdrew the money and deposited it with the First National Bank of Watseka at six per cent interest. The committee declined all compensation for their valuable services in making this loan, and received the unanimous thanks of the board for their successful labors. When the time for the payment of the bonds was near at hand there was discovered one of those complications of circumstances which foresight sometimes cannot prevent, nor correct intentions remove. Before this juncture had been advanced, the statement that the township and county bonds, issued in aid of the Chicago, Danville & Vincennes railroad, were unconstitutional and void, and proceedings had been begun in the Iroquois circuit court to test their validity. Certain persons had also sought to buy the county railroad bonds at a speculation, and to advance this object would have alarmed the holders with information and threats of this nature, had the latter been susceptible to such influence. Mr. Alexander had not been returned by his town at the spring election, and as there had been no session of the new board he still retained his place on the committee, though he was in doubt as to his right to serve. The board would meet July 10, only ten days after maturity of the bonds,



and he decided not to act at that time. Mr. Hitchcock also preferred to await the action of the board; but Mr. Secrest was in favor of taking the responsibility of making payment, although many lawyers thought the bonds were illegal. When the supervisors convened they unanimously instructed the committee to surrender the certificate of deposit which they held, and the First National Bank of Watseka was directed to pay the bonds, which now amounted to \$17,600. Immediately the bank, the county clerk and the treasurer were enjoined not to make payment to the bondholders. The latter had official information that the money had been in abeyance a year for the purpose of settlement, and being thus assured that there was no thought of attempting to repudiate the obligation, the injunction failed of the anticipated effect. November 24, the injunction having been withdrawn, the bonds were paid, with interest, up to the time when they fell due, and indorsements of the sums made. The holders presented their claim of \$706 for interest from July 1 to the date of payment, but uncertain action prevailed, indicating the quandary of the board, until the May term, 1878, when states attorney Harris was directed to commence proceedings for possession, and they were recovered and canceled.

Following is the outstanding bonded indebtedness of the county, showing the principal, and the amount falling due each year: 1880—principal, \$6,000, amount, \$11,200; 1881—principal, \$7,000, amount, \$11,600; 1882—principal, \$8,000, amount, \$11,900; 1883—principal, \$9,000, amount, \$12,100; 1884—principal, \$10,000, amount, \$12,200; 1885—principal, \$12,000, amount, \$13,200.

#### TOWNSHIP BOND CASES.

The later proceedings regarding the township bonds issued in aid of the Chicago, Danville & Vincennes railroad require some mention. Without going into details of the judicial proceedings in each case, it will be sufficient if we state that all of those towns having a debt incurred in aid of this road, except Fountain Creek and Pigeon Grove, enjoined further payment on their bonds between 1876 and 1878, excepting, also, as to time, the town of Concord. Stockland paid her bonds. The city of Watseka paid \$4,500. Ash Grove compromised for fifty cents on the dollar, and paid the costs of the injunction. Fountain Creek and Pigeon Grove did not enjoin. Concord was the first to lead off in the attempt to establish the illegality of these bonds. In 1873 New Hampshire sued for the interest on twenty of the bonds which it held, and the case was tried before Judge Blodgett, and decided against the township. An appeal was taken to the United States supreme court, and heard at the October term, 1875, and in

May, 1876, the decision was rendered by Justice Strong, who pronounced the bonds void, on account of conflicting with the state constitution. This was the first case ever decided against the holders of railroad bonds. The Middleport suit was made a test case before the supreme court of this state, and the bonds were held to be null and void, for the principal reason that the act of 1867, under and by virtue of which the aid was voted, provided that the appropriation should be paid by taxation, and conferred no authority to issue bonds; and that the constitution has intervened to prevent the enlarging or changing of the obligations assumed prior to its adoption. Most of these towns have obtained perpetual injunctions, but the United States supreme court has recently decided that a decree rendered in a case where ser-



vice is by publication, as it was in these cases, is not a bar to the recovery or collection by the defendant. It is not impossible, then, that they may be reopened. The obligation of these towns to pay their bonds is clear. If there are any exceptions they are in the cases of Concord and Sheldon. All voted aid for a single consideration — the building of the road. They have received it, and are deriving the benefits which a railroad gives, and will continue so to do. Taking advantage of irregularities, and the change of the organic law, they could not have directed a more effective blow at their honor and credit, if the purpose had been to tarnish the one or impair the other. The sober judgment and just convictions of men will stamp it as a violation of faith in which there is naught to extenuate. It ought to serve as a lesson that all political issues which are made upon the validity of obligations, for which a consideration has been received, tend only to corrupt the popular conscience and undermine the foundations of public virtue.

## CINCINNATI, LAFAYETTE AND CHICAGO RAILROAD.

The Illinois company of the Cincinnati, Lafayette & Chicago railroad was organized in May, 1870, and the Indiana company a year later. The road was built in 1871 and 1872, and put into operation the latter year, at a cost of \$3,778,216. Its length is seventy-five miles. Lafayette and Kankakee are the termini. By connecting the Indianapolis, Cincinnati & Lafayette and the Illinois Central railroads it forms an important link in the through line from Cincinnati to Chicago. When opened, this road took an advanced position in regard to tariffs, and its course toward its patrons has been so just and liberal, and its management so conscientious, that it has always enjoyed the good-will, and received the commendation of the business public.

## GILMAN, CLINTON AND SPRINGFIELD RAILROAD.

The Gilman, Clinton & Springfield Railroad Company was chartered in 1867. Two amendments to its charter were obtained before work was begun in 1870. It was put into operation in September, 1871. The road is one hundred and eleven and one-half miles long. It traverses one of the most fertile and highly cultivated portions of the state. The construction of this road was a gigantic speculation, and some of the practices connected with it partake so much of a darker nature that they might well be characterized by a different name. Like many others built about the same time, and by the same methods, it shortly went into bankruptcy. In November, 1873, F. E. Hinckley, of Chicago, was appointed receiver by the McLean county circuit court, and he kept possession of the road until August, 1875. Until June of the next year it was operated by the trustees of the first mortgage bonds. On the 10th of that month the property was sold by order of the Circuit Court of the United States for the southern district of Illinois, and afterward managed by George Bliss and Charles S. Seyton, trustees for the purchasers. The amount of the purchase was \$1,500,000 in first mortgage bonds. It is now owned and controlled by the Illinois Central company. The general offices are in Springfield.

## THE COUNTY POOR FARM.

The county poor farm was purchased about the beginning of the year 1857. It was an improved tract of 230 acres, 40 of which were woodland, and was obtained for \$3,100. H. B. Coberly was the owner. For many years only a small rental was derived from the investment, and at length the supervisors looked with so little favor on it that they would have sold the farm if they could have found a purchaser. For-



tunately they did not succeed in the endeavors made, and now the county has a well-managed and valuable asylum for this unhappy class of our humanity. Not having had time for a personal examination we extract from the Report of the Board of Public Charities a description of the premises: "The farm needs underdraining. A good garden, five acres; orchard of one hundred and fifty trees; red barn across the road. There are two buildings: one frame, for the keeper and the female paupers; the other of brick, for male paupers and the insane. The house occupied by the keeper, built in 1871-2, contains sixteen rooms. The insane department was built in 1877. It is a brick structure, 25×48 feet, two stories in height, with a cupola and a bell. The insane occupy the lower floor; nine cells, seven feet wide and ten feet long; brick partitions; doors paneled, with iron rods across each panel; wooden shutters to windows, the same; iron bedsteads, not fastened; no privy seats; heated by furnace, and by a stove in the hall; the corridor between the cells is used as a sitting-room by male paupers. This department is clean and quite comfortable; the keeper's office is in the same hall. Thirty-seven pauper inmates were inspected, of whom eight were insane; eight children under ten years of age. Saw pauper children playing croquet in the yard. The keeper's contract extends over four years; his salary is \$600, and all bills are paid by the county. The premises are clean and sufficiently well furnished, but the dining-room is too small. There is an artesian well in the yard."

Until the present manager was employed the custom had been to rent the place for cash, and pay the lessee a stipulated sum for the care of each pauper. A strict account is kept of everything raised, bought and sold—vegetables, cereals, merchandise, provisions, live stock; amount of the latter slaughtered and consumed; quantity of work done and help employed; prices paid, and extent and cost of improvements. Under the careful supervision of the committee of the board of supervisors annually appointed, and the able management of Mr. Cast, the present keeper, who reports to the committee, and they in turn to the board, this institution, which merits the fostering care it receives, has attained a high state of efficiency in providing for the unfortunate poor and afflicted. The keepers of this farm have been Samuel Porter, Thomas Mason, Joseph Moore, John Ash and Isaac Cast. The latter has been on the place since the spring of 1875.

#### THE LAKE SURVEY.

We are indebted to M. H. Messer, Esq., for the following concerning the lake survey: In 1879 the lake survey was extended from Lake Michigan near to the mouth of the Wabash river. For points of obser-

vation, four towers, eighty-five feet high, were erected in this county, one at Clifton, about one-third of a mile northwest of the depot; one about fifty rods southwest of J. R. Louden's dwelling, on Sec. 6, T. 25, R. 14 (Onarga township); one on section 11, in Crescent township, and the other on the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 35, T. 25, R. 12, in Milford township. The object of this work is to connect the lake survey with the Atlantic coast survey, which has been extended up the Mississippi river. It will be used to determine the length of an arc of a meridian for astronomical purposes, to determine the topography on the line, and for other scientific questions.

#### ABSTRACT OF VOTES IN THE COUNTY, PRESIDENTIAL YEARS.

Annexed is a statement of votes cast at presidential elections, showing the electoral strength of the county at the different times: In 1836 the democratic vote was 96, whig, 22; 1840, Van Buren, 175, Harrison, 154; 1844, Polk, 281, Clay, 204; 1848, John Wentworth, democratic candidate for congress, 333, J. Y. Scammon, whig, 267, Owen Lovejoy, abolitionist, 7; 1852, Pierce, 482, Scott, 387, Hale, abolitionist, 22; 1856, Fremont, 750, Buchanan, 460, Filmore, know-nothing, 108; 1860, Lincoln, 1,429, Douglas, 955, Breckenridge, 8; 1864, Lincoln, 1,777, McClellan, 843; 1868, Grant, 2,764, Seymour, 1,326; 1872, Grant, 3,081, Greeley, 1,761; 1876, Hayes, 3,768, Tilden, 2,578.

#### MICAJAH STANLEY'S ACCOUNT OF EARLY DAYS.

I came here in 1830, from the state of Ohio, Clinton county. We arrived here in the fall of 1830. In September we got to the Wabash river, and stopped three weeks on the Wee-haw Prairie. We found that country almost without inhabitants. There were some Indians and a few settlers, some six or eight families. We left there and settled near Milford, then Vermilion county, the same fall. We found here Samuel Rush, Robert Hill, Daniel Barbee, Jefferson Mounts, Hiram Miles and his father, and Joseph Cox. There were also two men named Singleton, two named Miller, and one named Reading, and also one negro, all living with the Indians, and left with them, and hence are not counted settlers. I came with my father's party, which consisted of my mother, Hannah Stanley; my oldest brother, William Stanley, and his wife Judith; my second brother, John Stanley, and his wife Agnes; my youngest brother, Isaac, and two sisters, Rebecca and Elizabeth. With us came from Wee-haw William Pickerel, an old Quaker, who was the founder of Milford, having laid out the town. He built a mill, hence the name Milford. Pickerel was a remark-

able man; he was a blacksmith, a miller and a farmer — jack of all trades and master of all arts; as honest and industrious as the day was long.

That winter we witnessed the hardest I ever experienced in my life. We were destitute of almost everything. We came here with eight head of horses, fifteen head of cattle, and a flock of sheep; and we expected to get hay of the people that were here, but the fire had destroyed it all. We had to haul our corn from the Wabash: we hauled what we expected would do us. In the early part of the winter, in December, a snow fell ten inches deep; that was increased through the winter until it became eighteen inches deep on the level, and then there came a rain and formed a crust on that. It created such a crust that a dog could run anywhere over it. The snow in places was drifted until it was six or seven feet. That fall we had plenty of wild turkeys, but the winter was so severe they all froze; and we had plenty of deer; the dogs and wolves killed a great many of them; we could find plenty of deers' carcasses afterward. The deer were not all killed, and we soon had plenty of them again, but we had no more wild turkey after that.

In 1831 we had a pretty hard time making a crop; with the rains we had, our streams were filled up very high, I may say tremendously high. In the spring we commenced farming. We began to plow and break prairie, and put in ten acres that had been in cultivation in the spring before.

That fall (1830) Mr. Hubbard was living here at Bunkum, and had his trading-house where Benjamin Fry lived. He moved that year to Danville, and opened a store. He employed me and some other men to go to Chicago for goods. He engaged four teams. I took five yoke of oxen. We went a little too soon, and had to stay there three weeks before the boat came in with the goods. At that time there was nothing between here and Chicago in the shape of a white family. We stayed all night at his trading-house, and the next morning we started for Chicago. We went up and crossed the Kankakee river where Robert Hill formerly kept hotel, above Momence. When we got there the river was bank full. We had to ride on the middle cattle and drive the head ones, and the water ran into our wagon-boxes. When we got to Chicago we found no goods there, so we had to stay three weeks before the schooner came in. Inside of old Fort Dearborn there were two or three persons doing business. Mr. Dole was there, and another gentleman was keeping a boarding-house there. Mark Beaubien was up the river in a little one-story house, keeping "tavern like hell," as he expressed it. Mr. Kinzie was up in the forks of the river,



and one of the Merricks lived at the old Merrick stand, near the present Douglas monument. There was a little dry land along the beach, and I do not blame Mr. Fry for taking the horse instead of the land that was offered him. We left Chicago, and in three days we got to the Calumet river. Sometimes we had to hitch ten yoke of oxen to one wagon to haul it through the quick-sand. We were between three and four weeks getting home. We ran out of provisions on the way back, and Henry Hubbard met us at Beaver creek with a basket of provisions. When we got home we rested about three weeks, then took the goods on to Danville. This is my experience on that trip.

After that the country began to settle up a little more. After the Black Hawk war there were two settlements made. My father-in-law, John Moore, settled four miles southeast of Watseka, where some of the family still stay. About that time a report came to our settlement in the evening by the mail-carrier, who carried the mail from Danville to Chicago on horseback, that the Indians had followed him until he got to the Iroquois river. He was all dirty and his horse was all dirty, and he was afraid to take his supper at the hotel; and we had another assurance from some men that went out to Hickory creek to look at the country. They came riding in in the afternoon, and said the Indians had followed them all day and were close upon them. My mother was in the house, and the rest of us were in the field planting corn. We thought it all a farce. The rest of them went away, but I stayed until dark, and when I went through the settlement they were all gone except George Hinshaw, an old bachelor, who was living there. I found him, and when we went through that settlement we found the calves shut up in rail pens, and we tore the pens down and let them out. Such had been their haste that they left them in that condition. The next day we went to Parish's Grove, and I said to Hinshaw, "We had better go back; if the Indians had been so near they would have been here before this time." The greater part of the settlers stayed down on the Wabash until fall, so we almost lost that crop. This was in 1832.

I was in Bunkum in 1832. There had been a report of Indians scouting through the country. Mr. Vasseur and Benjamin Fry had been out to look after the matter. When I saw them their horses were dirty; that was the first time I ever met those gentlemen; I have been acquainted with them ever since until the death of Mr. Fry.

In 1833, I think it was, we held an election for a justice of the peace in Vermilion territory; there were two precincts; Milford was entitled to one and Bunkum to one; but we failed to know that we were entitled to two justices, so Bob Hill and Ike Courtright were the candi-

dates. There was a spirited contest between the rival candidates, Hill representing the Milford settlement and Courtright the Bunkum settlement. Each wanted the justice in his precinct; but the election was held at Bunkum, and this gave Courtright the advantage, and he beat Hill two or three votes. Courtright went to Danville and got his commission, and executed all the legal business for the whole of this county. But two years afterward Hill was elected, and he went to Danville after his commission, and, lo and behold, he was presented with one two years old, and might have had it when Courtright got his, as we were entitled to two justices all the time. I was not twenty-one when I came here, but was in the next February, so I was entitled to a vote, and that was the first time I ever voted in my life. Mr. Courtright made a very prominent justice of the peace. Mr. Hill was also a very prominent man. We had no need of justices then, only to take notice of the estrays. The first business I had was to take a notice of a steer, and I had Mr. Singleton come up as a witness to the marks on that brute.



WOODWORTH &amp; MILLER'S BLOCK, MILFORD.

When the citizen came to our county then we met him, as we do to-day, with open arms and a hearty shake of the hand. Then we would go eight and ten miles to help build a cabin. And you, my old friends who are here to-day, still have the same feeling as you did in the early days of the settlement. When a man came into the county, and we found he wanted to be a citizen, we turned out to help him build his cabin, because they were honest and true men, almost all of them. There were but very few men that partook of the intoxicating cup to excess. In 1835 I moved to the place where I now live. I located three miles from any other house. There were plenty of Indians, and they were as honest as any men I ever lived among. They would not suffer

their dogs to kill a pig or a sheep, and if they did kill any, they would hunt the man up and pay him for it. That is not the habit of men to-day. I used to leave everything out where I worked, and never lost anything. I settled in Watseka in March, 1835, where my house is now, and I made a farm there. My friends came around me occasionally, and I used to spend from a day to a week showing men the county. They would come there and tell me they wanted to buy land to make a home, but not many of those men ever came back. Mr. Beckwith was our surveyor, and a very fine man. The land was surveyed, and we could find any of the corners we wanted, and locate a man anywhere. That was the situation of our county up to 1835.

Micajah Stanley, Watseka, was born in Highland county, Ohio, February 2, 1810, and is the son of Anthony and Hannah (Hobbs) Stanley, his father, a native of North Carolina, having moved to Highland county in about 1805. About 1813 they moved to Clinton county. Mr. Stanley has held several offices of public trust: coroner, four years, one of the first of Iroquois county; constable, two years, 1836 and 1837; justice of the peace, two years; sheriff of the county, about eight years; member of the legislature, 1846-7; mayor of Watseka, first mayor of the city; 1879 he was reelected mayor, which office he now fills. These offices he has filled with honor and credit. He married, January, 1833, Rebecca Moore, of Ohio, by whom they have six children, living.

#### LARCH FARM.

This beautiful farm is located on the line of the Illinois Central railroad, about a mile north of Onarga, and is the property of Allan Pinkerton, the renowned detective.

Mr. Pinkerton is a native of Scotland. He was born in 1819, in Gorbaes, Glasgow, and in 1842, when twenty-three years of age, he came to the United States, locating in the state of Illinois. Of his detective experience it is not necessary to speak. His principal agencies, established in Chicago, New York and Philadelphia, are conducted upon a strict system of discipline and honor, which invariably insure success in the numerous operations with which his name may be identified. In the year 1864 Mr. Pinkerton purchased the tract of land in question, which then contained about  $254\frac{22}{100}$  acres, but for many years thereafter it received no attention, and remained in its original condition of a raw prairie. Subsequently Mr. Pinkerton disposed of several smaller pieces of his land, among which were about 25 acres to an association of individuals, who selected this site on account of its adaptability for the purpose of holding thereon the Iroquois county fair.

In 1870 the remaining portion, which contains 210 acres, was rented



to a farmer in the vicinity, who cultivated the land to some extent, and he was in turn succeeded by others. But in 1873 Mr. Pinkerton determined upon the carrying out of an idea which had long occupied his mind, and to cultivate a prairie farm which would be the acme of western rural development. Accordingly, Mr. Pinkerton took the property into his own hands, at once began active operations, and after seven years of labor and a lavish expenditure of money, "Larch Farm" has become the "model" farm of Iroquois county. The dwelling-house which has been erected is a large, commodious, one-story square structure, surmounted by a cupola, with an addition attached to the north side. In appearance the house resembles very much the residences which graced the plantations of the south before the rebellion spread its desolating effects over that region of our country. The interior is supplied with every modern improvement for comfort, while the furniture and adornments combine all the ideas which wealth, refinement and luxury can suggest.

The progress in the cultivation of the land is indeed a marvel of agricultural ability, and evinces in a marked degree the results which may be accomplished by good taste, untiring energy and a liberal, but wisely directed, expenditure of money. Through the operation of these influences the prairie desert has been made to blossom as the rose.

The entire farm, which is nearly rectangular in shape, is inclosed with a luxuriant close-trimmed hedge of osage orange trees, while inside of this hedge there have been planted seven rows of larch trees (from which the farm takes its name), set at the distance of four feet apart. The railroad intersects the land from north to south, and on each side of this the same arrangement of osage orange and larch trees has been observed. Two broad driving avenues have been laid out across the farm from north to south and from east to west, and along these drives are planted innumerable evergreen trees, set in a double row upon each side, while immediately behind these are ranged the seven rows of larch trees, set at the distance above mentioned. The edges of these avenues are ornamented with a bordering of bright blooming flowers from end to end, the effect of which is beautiful to behold.

Some idea of the magnitude of this labor, all of which has been done under Mr. Pinkerton's direction, may be obtained from the fact that over 1,000 evergreens and 85,000 larch trees have been planted by the energetic owner of "Larch Farm." Along the main roads and those leading to the house there have also been planted rows of maple trees, whose bright green foliage considerably enhances the beauty of the place. The lawn immediately surrounding the house, which contains more than four acres, has been most beautifully and tastefully arranged.

Serpentine walks of graceful curvings, with their firm beds of coal cinders, which have been brought from a great distance, and their brilliant borderings of blooming flowers, numerous flower-beds of most varied and beautiful shapes, and a liberal distribution of marble and terra-cotta vases of unique designs, filled with brilliant-hued flowers and rare plants, all contribute to the production of a scene of beauty which is the theme of universal admiration and a source of pleasure and delight to their liberal-minded owner. The beauty of the lawn is further enhanced by an artificial lake, 100 feet long, immediately in rear of the house, which glistens in the morning sun, or in which, during the long evenings, the rays of the moon are brightly reflected. A dainty white boat which sails upon its surface affords amusement to the numberless visitors to the farm.

The outbuildings evince the same regard for beauty and durability. The greenhouse, which already contains over 2,000 plants of unlimited variety, and which is to be immediately supplemented by another of the same capacity, is a source of wonderment and pleasure to the visitors from the surrounding neighborhood, to whose inspection, as well as the entire grounds, they have been opened by the courtesy of Mr. Pinkerton. The barns, stables, corn-crib (probably the largest in the county) and ice-house are in perfect accord with their surroundings, and are remarkable for their neatness, strength and durability. There is also to be erected a fruit-house of large dimensions during the summer.

An artesian well has been sunk upon the premises to the depth of one hundred and thirty feet, which is surmounted by a wind-mill thirty-seven feet high, of the most recent invention, and which furnishes the house with a supply of water amply sufficient for drinking, washing and culinary purposes, and for the bath-rooms contained within the dwelling. Mr. Pinkerton has also set out about 2,000 apple trees, all of which give evidence of thrift and of abundant yields in the very near future, and in addition to these orchards there are a great number of pear, quince and cherry trees, all giving sure indications of fruitfulness.

The fruit and vegetable gardens contain almost every known variety, and receive the careful attention of an experienced gardener. The fields have been confined to the production of corn and oats, and have thus far yielded abundant harvests.

Disconnected from the farm proper, but in close proximity thereto, is another tract of land belonging to Mr. Pinkerton, which contains a strawberry bed of large dimensions, and fruit trees in great number and variety. In order to accomplish this gigantic labor Mr. Pinkerton employs the services of ten men during the entire year, while during the spring this force is augmented to double that number, and

the result of this labor is manifest in the growing beauty of the place and the luxuriant harvests which are annually gathered.

Altogether, "Larch Farm" is one of the great features of Iroquois county, and its owner one of the most energetic, tasteful and liberal gentlemen of the community.

The subjoined list of officers of Iroquois county, though not quite complete, is given as furnished by the secretary of state, with such corrections as we have been able to make:

Name.	Date of Commission.	Office.
Samuel M. Dunn.....	March 25, 1834 .....	Sheriff.
Micajah Stanley.....	March 25, 1834 .....	Coroner.
William Cox.....	March 25, 1834 .....	Commissioner.
Samuel McFall.....	March 25, 1834 .....	Commissioner.
John Hougland .....	March 25, 1834 .....	Commissioner.
John G. McDonald*.....	June 2, 1834 .....	Surveyor.
P. P. Hunter .....	June 27, 1834 .....	Judge of Probate.
P. P. Hunter .....	June 29, 1834 .....	Recorder.
John Hougland .....	August 7, 1834 .....	Commissioner.
William Cox.....	August 7, 1834 .....	Commissioner.
Samuel McFall.....	August 7, 1834 .....	Commissioner.
Samuel M. Dunn.....	August 25, 1834 .....	Sheriff.
William Thomas.....	August 25, 1834 .....	Coroner.
Hugh Newell .....	December 13, 1834 .....	Judge of Probate.
Hugh Newell .....	February 21, 1835 .....	Recorder.
James Cain .....	April 1, 1835 .....	Coroner.
Hugh Newell .....	August 20, 1835 .....	Recorder.
Benjamin Scott .....	August 29, 1836 .....	Sheriff.
Henry D. Strickler .....	August 29, 1836 .....	Coroner.
Benjamin Scott .....	September 5, 1838 .....	Sheriff.
William Fowler.....	August 23, 1838 .....	Coroner.
Alexander Willson .....	September 9, 1839 .....	Probate Justice.
Hugh Newell .....	August 19, 1839 .....	Recorder.
John Wilson.....	August 19, 1839 .....	Surveyor.
Micajah Stanley.....	August 22, 1840 .....	Sheriff.
William Fowler.....	August 22, 1840 .....	Coroner.
John Harwood .....	August 21, 1841 .....	Recorder.
Adam Egbert.....	August 18, 1842 .....	Coroner.
Micajah Stanley.....	November 24, 1842 .....	Sheriff.
John Harwood .....	August 28, 1843 .....	Recorder.
Amos O. Whiteman .....	August 28, 1843 .....	Surveyor.
Micajah Stanley.....	September 16, 1844 .....	Sheriff.
Henry Kellener .....	November 16, 1844 .....	Coroner.
Thomas Sammons.....	August 27, 1846 .....	Sheriff.
Benjamin Brackney .....	August 27, 1846 .....	Coroner.
Robert Nilson.....	August 20, 1847 .....	Surveyor.
John F. Wagner .....	August 20, 1847 .....	Recorder.
Jonathan Griffin .....	August 23, 1848 .....	Coroner.
Jesse Bennett.....	Elected September 4, 1848 .....	Circuit Clerk.
Leander Hogle.....	September 7, 1848 .....	Sheriff.
William Pierce.....	October 23, 1848 .....	Public Administrator.
John Chamberlain.....	November 23, 1849 .....	County Judge.
John F. Wagner .....	November 23, 1849 .....	County Clerk.
Robert Nilson.....	November 23, 1849 .....	Surveyor.
Michael Hogle .....	November 20, 1850 .....	Sheriff.

\* Nominated to the Governorship by the county commissioners at their first term, but never qualified. Jonas Smith was the first county surveyor; date of election or appointment not known.



Name.	Date of Commission.	Office.
Samuel Boyd .....	November 20, 1850.....	Coroner.
Robert Nilson .....	November 18, 1851.....	Surveyor.
John F. Wagner .....	November 17, 1852.....	Sheriff.
Adam Burr .....	November 17, 1852.....	Coroner.
Amos O. Whiteman .....	November 17, 1852.....	County Clerk.
Jesse Bennett .....	November 17, 1852.....	Circuit Clerk.
G. F. M. Wilson .....	February 2, 1853.....	Public Administrator.
Daniel Fry .....	November 22, 1853.....	County Clerk.
John Chamberlain.....	November 22, 1853.....	County Judge.
John Coogle .....	November 22, 1853.....	School Commissioner.
R. Adson .....	May 17, 1853 .....	Surveyor.
Asa B. Roff.....	November 21, 1854.....	Sheriff.
John A. Strickler.....	November 21, 1854.....	Coroner.
Robert Nilson.....	November 19, 1855.....	Surveyor.
James H. Karr .....	November 13, 1856.....	Sheriff.
John Streat .....	November 13, 1856.....	Coroner.
Thomas Vennum.....	November 14, 1856.....	Circuit Clerk.
James P. Martin .....	July 22, 1857 .....	Public Administrator.
John Chamberlain.....	December 1, 1857 .....	County Judge.
Daniel Fry.....	December 1, 1857 .....	County Clerk.
George King.....	December 1, 1857 .....	County Treasurer.
George King.....	.....	School Commissioner.
Elkanah Doolittle .....	February 12, 1858 .....	Surveyor.
Theodore Ayres .....	November 26, 1858.....	Sheriff.
H. O. Henry .....	December 14, 1858 .....	Coroner.
Moses H. Messer .....	November 16, 1859.....	Surveyor.
John L. Donovan.....	1859 .....	Treasurer.
Nelson M. Bancroft.....	1859 .....	School Commissioner.
Luther T. Clark.....	November 26, 1860.....	Sheriff.
Thomas Vennum.....	November 26, 1860.....	Circuit Clerk.
H. O. Henry .....	December 8, 1860 .....	Coroner.
Samuel Williams.....	November 25, 1861.....	County Judge.
George A. Woodford .....	November 25, 1861.....	County Clerk.
George King.....	November 25, 1861.....	Treasurer.
Moses H. Messer .....	November 25, 1861.....	Surveyor.
Harrison O. Henry .....	November 14, 1862.....	Sheriff.
Oliver L. Clark.....	November 14, 1862.....	Coroner.
Moses H. Messer.....	December 19, 1863 .....	Surveyor.
George King.....	.....	Treasurer.
N. M. Bancroft.....	.....	School Commissioner.
Thomas Vennum.....	November 23, 1864.....	Circuit Clerk.
James P. Martin .....	November 23, 1864.....	Sheriff.
Wm. F. Keady.....	November 23, 1864.....	Coroner.
C. F. McNeill.....	November 28, 1865.....	County Judge.
James W. Kay.....	November 28, 1865.....	County Clerk.
Pierce T. Rhodes.....	November 28, 1865.....	Treasurer.
E. W. Dodson .....	November 28, 1865.....	Surveyor.
N. M. Bancroft .....	November 28, 1865.....	Supt. of Schools.
Ezekiel B. Sleeth.....	November 29, 1866.....	Sheriff.
Joseph W. Kay .....	November 29, 1866.....	Coroner.
E. W. Dodson .....	December 16, 1867 .....	Surveyor.
Iven L. Bailey .....	December 16, 1867 .....	Treasurer.
Henry T. Skeels.....	November 17, 1868.....	Circuit Clerk.
Alexander H. South .....	November 25, 1868.....	Sheriff.
John D. Leland .....	December 4, 1868 .....	Coroner.
Samuel Williams.....	March 4, 1869 .....	Public Administrator.
Cornelius F. McNeill .....	December 7, 1869 .....	County Judge.
Alba Honeywell.....	December 7, 1869 .....	County Clerk.
Austin W. Hogle.....	December 7, 1869 .....	Treasurer.
Benjamin F. Masters .....	December 7, 1869 .....	Surveyor.
Levi T. Hewins .....	December 7, 1869 .....	Supt. of Schools.
A. H. South .....	December 28, 1870 .....	Sheriff.

Name.	Date of Commission.	Office.
I. L. Bailey.....	December 4, 1871.....	Treasurer.
John M. Burton.....	December 4, 1871.....	Surveyor.
John W. Riggs.....	November 29, 1872.....	Circuit Clerk.
A. H. South.....	November 29, 1872.....	Sheriff.
Daniel Parker.....	November 29, 1872.....	Coroner.
John A. Holmes.....	September 12, 1873.....	Supt. of Schools.
M. B. Wright.....	November 17, 1873.....	County Judge.
Henry A. Butzow.....	December 3, 1873.....	County Clerk.
George Metzger.....	December 3, 1873.....	County Treasurer.
David Kerr.....	December 3, 1873.....	Supt. of Schools.
Thomas Pierson.....	November 25, 1874.....	Sheriff.
Andrew J. Harwood.....	November 25, 1874.....	Coroner.*
John L. Hamilton.....	November 26, 1875.....	County Treasurer.
Fabien Langdoc.....	November 26, 1875.....	Coroner.
John M. Burton.....	November 26, 1875.....	Surveyor.
Jacob C. Shear.....	November 22, 1876.....	Sheriff.
Fabien Langdoc.....	November 22, 1876.....	Coroner.
John L. Hamilton.....	December 1, 1877.....	Treasurer.
David Kerr.....	December 1, 1877.....	Supt. of Schools.
John T. Pierson.....	December 2, 1878.....	Sheriff.
L. W. Critser.....	December 2, 1878.....	Coroner.
John L. Hamilton.....	December 1, 1879.....	Treasurer.
J. M. Burton.....	December 1, 1879.....	Surveyor.

## CIRCUIT JUDGES.

Name.	Date of Commission.	Name.	Date of Commission.
Thomas Ford.....	January 19, 1835.	Charles H. Wood.....	March 8, 1867.
John Pearson.....	February 4, 1837.	Charles H. Wood.....	June 7, 1867.
H. F. Dickey.....	December 4, 1848.	Nathaniel J. Pillsbury.....	June 16, 1873.
Hugh Henderson.....	April 4, 1849.	Owen T. Reeves.....	March 6, 1877.
S. H. Randall.....	October 31, 1854.	Franklin Blades.....	August 20, 1877.
S. H. Randall.....	June 25, 1855.	Franklin Blades.....	June 16, 1879.
Charles R. Starr.....	March 19, 1857.	Nathaniel J. Pillsbury.....	June 16, 1879.
Charles R. Starr.....	July 1, 1861.	Owen T. Reeves.....	June 16, 1879.

The following named persons were elected from Iroquois county, at the time specified, to represent in the lower house of the general assembly of Illinois the district to which it was attached:

Name.	Elected.	Name.	Elected.
Isaac Courtright.....	August 1, 1836.	Charles H. Wood.....	November 8, 1864.
Lewis Roberts.....	August 6, 1838.	George E. King.....	November 6, 1866.
Isaac Courtright.....	August 1, 1842.	Addison Goodell.....	November 8, 1870.
Jacob Wagner.....	August 5, 1844.	Thomas Vennum.....	November 8, 1870.
Micajah Stanley.....	August 3, 1846.	E. B. Collins.....	November 5, 1872.
Joseph Thomas.....	November 2, 1852.	George W. Parker.....	November 3, 1874.
Erastus Hill†.....	November 7, 1854.	Conrad Secrest.....	November 7, 1876.
Franklin Blades.....	November 4, 1856.	Conrad Secrest.....	November 5, 1878.
J. M. Hood.....	November 2, 1858.	M. H. Peters.....	November 5, 1878.
Franklin Blades.....	November 6, 1860.	A. S. Palmer, senator, 1872.	
Addison Goodell.....	November 4, 1862.		

\* Removed from office.

† This has the appearance of an error. There were several in the list of representatives, but it is believed that they have all been corrected, except, it may be, this one.

## BIOGRAPHICAL.

Experience Lehigh, whose portrait appears in this work, was born in Genesee county, New York, November 28, 1801. Her father, William Guild, emigrated from Vermont to that county, and married Abigail Streeter. Miss Streeter was born in Connecticut. Her second husband, Eusebius Fargo, was also a Vermonter. He had lived some years in Canada before their marriage. In 1814 they emigrated to West Virginia. Reaching the Alleghany river at Olean, they procured two skiffs, which he lashed together, and in them the family descended the river to Wheeling, where they embarked in a keel-boat to the Kanawa river, and settled on its banks. Farming was his occupation in New York, and he pursued the same calling here. Like many others, they depended upon their daily labor for their daily bread. The family was large, and Experience, as soon as of suitable age, earned her livelihood away from home, and in November, four days before she was sixteen, married Abram Lehigh. Mr. Lehigh was born in Vermont; had lived most of his early life in Canada, and was called a Canadian. He was a hard-working, industrious man, and well liked by his neighbors. From 1817 to 1829 they toiled on the banks of that river to make the hard soil yield more than a living for themselves and little flock of six children, and it became necessary to secure a home of their own. Gathering together their small possessions, with a team of three horses and a large wagon, they started for the Wabash in the fall of 1829. At this time her half-brothers and sisters were: Viletty, who married William Hall, now a resident of Onarga; Irene; Henrietta; La Ralt, now living in Kentucky; Adelia, wife of T. A. Norvell, of Gilman; Amanda; Luna; John; Nancy; Lucinda, wife of Nelson Skeels, of Montana; and Abigail; all of whom, with her father and mother, were left behind. William Guild Lehigh, their eldest child, named for her father, was eleven years old; Mary was nine; John, seven; Irene Maria, four; Alvira, two; and Benjamin, the baby, five months. The journey across the states of Ohio and Indiana was accomplished in a month, including a few days' stopping on the route, on account of the sickness of Mrs. Lehigh. Perrysville was their destination. There they lived five years, and two children, Nancy and Lucinda, were added to the family. Mr. Lehigh being a man of feeble health, more than the usual duties of a wife devolved upon her. The burden of their anxiety and effort was the home for which they left Virginia to secure, and in the fall of 1834 he made a selection of land on Spring creek, and moved here in the following winter. In the spring of 1836 Mr. Lehigh died, leaving the subject of



this sketch a widow, with eight children, the eldest eighteen years old, and the youngest, Frederick Abram, born August 14, 1835, eight months. This was the time of trouble which brought out the noble qualities of this woman, and developed her ability to manage business and succeed where many men would have failed. They were possessed of 194 acres of timber, and a claim on 120 acres of prairie, a team of oxen, the usual household goods and farming implements of new settlers in a wild country. A living was to be secured by their own effort, the prairie land paid for, and the children educated. To these responsible duties she gave her energies. William and John did the work of men; broke up the prairie, raised the crops, and under her direction, attended to the out-door farm duties; while she, with the girls, kept the cabin in order, spun and wove the cloth for the family's clothing, and exercised the controlling influence over the whole household. William, being the eldest son, was his mother's main assistant till he married. After this John took the place made vacant by that event. She found a way to give the children educational advantages equal to those of any of her neighbors, and when the elder ones were married, the remainder of the family moved to Middleport for that purpose. After three years she returned to the farm. While in Middleport, Benjamin, then twenty-one years old, went with a large company of men overland to California. He returned after an absence of about a year, and died in a few days—March 21, 1851. Now her farm help was her youngest son, Frederick, about sixteen years old. About this time the farm was divided with John, he taking one-half and she retaining the other. A part of the timber was sold, and the remainder divided among the children, she sharing equally with them. In 1856 she bought a house and lot in Onarga, where she lived till the fall of 1857, and then returned to the farm. She was liberal and generous with her children, and bore patiently any sacrifice for their benefit, and in return was honored and loved by them. For many years before there was a physician in the settlement she kept the common medical remedies in her house, and quite well knew their use, and in sickness was a most excellent nurse, as her neighbors could testify. She always lent a helping hand to those in distress when it was in her power to do so. This woman, born and bred in the humbler walks of life, where hard labor and great care was her lot, showed traits of character superior to many whose advantages were much better. The rearing of a large family in a new county, where the nearest mill was thirty miles, the only market eighty-five, no doctor nearer than twenty miles, and all the inconveniences of pioneer life surrounding her, was the situation she was placed in; but she never shrank from her plain

duty — never pined about her condition, but with true philosophical resignation made the most she could with life, and in being cheerful and happy made others so. She lived to see all her living children settled in life: William G., with his family, in Iowa; Mary, the wife of Samuel H. Harper; John, on one-half the old farm; Irene Maria, the wife of Forest Lindsey; Lucinda, the wife of M. H. Messer, and Frederick A., on the home farm with her. After a life of industry and constant effort, she died March 28, 1860, mourned by all who knew her.

Father Joseph Elzeard Michaud, Catholic priest, Watseka, was born in St. Andrew, province of Quebec, Kamouraska county, Canada, June 20, 1831. He received his principal education at the Quebec Seminary, graduating in 1851. He was ordained priest in 1855, and was first stationed as vicar, at Riviere du Loup, Temiscouata county, Canada. In 1857 he was parish-priest at Notre Dame du Portage; in 1858, parish-priest at St. Anne des Monts; in 1861, parish-priest at Notre Dame du Mont Carmel. He was sick for two years. In 1864 he was parish-priest at St. Onesime. In 1872 he was sent to the United States for the French Canadians at Lawrence, Mass. In 1874 he was employed by the Canadian government for four years to return his compatriots to Canada, and at the same time he was parish-priest of Windsor Mills. In 1879 he came to Watseka, and here he has been engaged in building churches at Watseka, Sheldon and Hoopeston.

Hon. Franklin Blades, circuit judge, Watseka, is perhaps one of the best known and most highly respected men of Iroquois county. He was born in the old Hoosier State, in Rush county, Indiana, November 29, 1830, and is the son of James and Mary (Harcourt) Blades. His father was a country physician, who died when the subject of this sketch was in the sixteenth year of his age, leaving him with an imperfect common-school education, and with only good parental training for an inheritance. Soon after his father's death he was taken into the employment of Dr. James Ford, a learned physician, at Wabash, Indiana, with whom he remained until the fall of 1849, meanwhile studying the science of medicine with him. He attended medical lectures at the Indiana Central Medical College in 1849 and 1850. In 1851 he was taken under the patronage of the late William Fowler, M.D., in the little hamlet of Concord, Iroquois county, Illinois, and was by him put into active practice. A part of his professional education was had at Rush Medical College, of Chicago, from which institution he graduated in February, 1852. The young physician now changed his place of residence to the shire town of Iroquois county, then known as Middleport, now as Watseka, where he has since resided, witnessing

time's mutations in that community, the coming, the going, the growing up and the passing away; always a trusted, honored member of the society of that quiet little village. With a view to increasing his skill in the healing art, after graduating he attended clinical lectures in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where he also matriculated both in the University of Pennsylvania and Jefferson Medical College. But Dr. Blades' tastes were not met in a country physician's life, accordingly he entered the office of George B. Joiner, Esq., in 1855, as a law student, and began the practice of law three years later, having been admitted to the bar. As a practitioner he was always successful. Being a fluent, merry speaker, his addresses to juries were almost irresistible, and with all his mind took strong hold upon principles of law, lifting him to the front rank in the profession. As far back as 1864, Wilson S. Kay, a very able lawyer, of the Iroquois county bar, became his law partner, and the firm of Blades & Kay was not dissolved until the senior member was transferred from the bar to the bench. During those long years there existed between the two men a professional and personal confidence that is rarely seen. Since his admission to the bar, Judge Blades has had but little of strictly private life, in one capacity or another, much of the time filling some responsible office. In 1856, and for two years afterward, he edited the Iroquois "Republican," and he has been heard to say that no work was more congenial to him. The republican party was then in its infancy, the editor was in the lusty strength of early manhood, and the moving events of those hot years lent zeal to his crisp and pungent talent, and the products of his pen went flying through the republican press of the country. In 1856 the republican convention, held at Joliet, for the legislative district composed of Will, Du Page, Kankakee and Iroquois counties, nominated him for member of the state legislature. He was elected, and again in 1861. In 1862 he was commissioned by Gov. Yates surgeon of the 76th reg. Ill. Inf., and went to the front, doing service at the siege and fall of Vicksburg, and elsewhere in the southwest. At Jackson, Mississippi, then occupied by the rebel Gen. Johnson, he was violently attacked with dysentery, from which he did not recover in eighteen months, and was forced to resign in the spring of 1864. For months his health was so precarious that his death would not have occasioned surprise. In 1864 he was chosen a Lincoln elector, but infirm health prevented his taking a part in the canvass. In 1868 he was a candidate for congress, being defeated by Gen. J. H. Moore in the nomination convention. In 1869 he was appointed assessor of internal revenue by President Grant, and held the office four years. In 1877 he was elected one of the judges of the eleventh judicial district, and at the



recent election was again chosen for a term of six years. Judge Blades is a man of strong convictions, of the utmost candor, and a lover of books. He possesses the natural and acquired qualifications to sit in judgment between men, and between the people and individuals. He is one who will hold the scales of justice with steady hand, and as one who, unmoved by passion or prejudice, will bring experience and learning to bear in joining law with equity. Judge Blades was married in 1854 to Miss Jennie King, of Illinois, and by this union they have three children.

Edward Matthews, biographical writer, Papineau, emigrated from Kingston county, Canada, to Iroquois county, Illinois, in 1864. He was born in the former place August 20, 1839. His parents were Adam and Harriet (David) Matthews, and with them he spent his youth, engaged in the duties of the farm and attending school. In the latter pursuit, though his advantages were quite limited, he yet, by an extensive general reading, obtained a good practical education, which to one with sound judgment and a quick perception of the realities of life is equivalent to that usually obtained in the best high schools and colleges. In December, 1861, he married Miss Mary Knox, a native of Canada. He then engaged in farming for himself. In 1864, his wife dying, he came on a trip to Illinois, and after a stay of a few months, liking the country, he decided to make this his future home. Accordingly, in the spring of 1865, he arranged with an insurance company of Freeport to act as their agent for the counties of Kankakee and Iroquois, and in this business he continued until October 31, 1866. At the date last named he married Mrs. Maria Jones, widow of Mr. Henry Jones, whose portrait appears in this work, and daughter of Thomas Sammons, Esq., one of the early sheriffs of Iroquois county. She was born in Montgomery county, New York, February 10, 1833, and came with her parents to this county in 1836 or 1837. After the marriage of Mr. Matthews to Mrs. Jones he engaged in farming and stock-raising, which business he followed until the death of his wife, which sad event occurred March 4, 1876. Mrs. Matthews was one of the truly great and noble women, and her loss was to him the severest affliction of his life. He has one child: Maxwell Adam, born September, 1873. After the death of his wife Mr. Matthews rented his farm to others, and engaged in more congenial business. He is engaged at present as indicated at the head of this article, and with what success the readers of the townships of Papineau, Beaver and Martinton will be able to judge. Suffice it to say that to Mr. Matthews the editors of this work acknowledge their obligations for the very complete and painstaking manner in which the work has been done.

Isaac Amerman, real estate and collection agent, Onarga. In the seventeenth century three brothers named Amerman came from Holland with the early Dutch colonists and settled at New Amsterdam. The maternal ancestors of the subject of this sketch were descended from John Alden, who came over in the Mayflower. His mother, Charlotte Peck Knapp, was a native of Martha's Vineyard. Mr. Amerman was born in New York city, February 23, 1822. When seven years old he went to live with an elder brother in Montgomery (now Fulton) county, New York. He attended the Johnstown Academy until fourteen, when he returned to the city and was apprenticed to the harness maker's trade. After serving four years at this he went into the wholesale grocery business as a clerk, which he followed until his marriage with Margaret B. Conklin, March 23, 1843. At this time he formed a partnership with Francis Hobbs—firm of Hobbs & Amerman—in the wholesale butter trade. After three years he engaged alone in the harness business, and a few years subsequently was employed as a clerk in the office of Morton & Bremner, manufacturers of spring balances and steel ornaments. In 1855, quitting this last situation, which he had held six years, he emigrated west and settled in St. Joseph, Berrien county, Michigan. His residence of three years there was spent in running a saw-mill and in an unsuccessful attempt to clear a farm out of the forest, in both which occupations he met with several accidents, narrowly escaping fatal injuries. His strength not being equal to such muscular employments, in 1858 he removed to Onarga, in this county, and located on a farm six miles southeast of the village. In 1865 he opened the "Amerman Collection Agency" in Onarga. The business transacted by this agency has made it widely known, and Mr. Amerman's promptness and skill in the discharge of all his duties have been rewarded with the confidence of the public. He has been justice of the peace since January, 1866, notary public ten years, tax collector seven or eight years, secretary of the agricultural society the first ten years after its organization, and was several years secretary of the Iroquois County Bible Society and of the Onarga Auxiliary Bible Society. Since 1861 he has been in communion with the Presbyterian church, and for several years a member of the Masonic and Good Templar lodges of Onarga. In politics he was first a whig, but on the disappearance of that party joined the republicans. His family has numbered eleven children, six sons and five daughters: William C., Emeline S., Margaret A., Peter, Albert M., Richard M. (dead), Charlotte M., Helen D., Francis G., Philip M. and Charles (dead). William enlisted in Co. D, 113th Ill. Vol., in August, 1862. He was severely wounded in the head at Arkansas Post. Mr. Amerman was a captain

in the famous New York Seventh Regiment, and commanded his company in the noted Astor Place riot, May 10, 1849.

John B. Robinson, president of Grand Prairie Seminary, Commercial College, and Conservatory of Music, Onarga, was the youngest child of Adin and Jane (Anderson) Robinson, and was born at Osceola, Warren county, Ohio, April 11, 1834. His parents were of Scotch descent; his father was born in Maryland in 1787, and his mother in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, in 1792. They moved to Clark county, Ohio, and settled on a farm near New Carlisle when he was four years old. At the age of twenty he prepared for college at the new Carlisle Academy, and entered the Ohio Wesleyan University, at Delaware, in the sophomore class, early in 1858; graduated from both the classical and biblical schools in 1860. This was an eventful year in his personal history. He was licensed to preach; became principal of the Mount Washington Seminary, near Cincinnati, and celebrated his marriage with Miss Emily A. Morris, daughter of Judge David H. Morris, of Miami county, Ohio. Her mother's name was Elizabeth Reyburn. In 1865 he was elected president of Willoughby College, then in the bounds of the Erie conference. In 1869 he accepted the like position in Fort Wayne College, Indiana. In 1871 he was called to the presidency of the New Hampshire Conference Seminary and Female College, Tilton, New Hampshire, and in 1877 became president of Grand Prairie Seminary, Commercial College, and Conservatory of Music, at Onarga, Illinois. During his residence in New England he was a member of the New Hampshire Lecture Bureau, and traveled and lectured extensively in that state, and in Vermont and Massachusetts. He continues to lecture on scientific and educational subjects in connection with his labors as an instructor. In 1875 he published "Infidelity Answered"; in 1876, "Vines of Eschol," and the same year, "Emeline; or, Home, Sweet Home," a poem. On the same day, in the year 1879, two universities, the Indiana Asbury and the Illinois Wesleyan, conferred on him the degree of doctor of divinity. Dr. Robinson's father was an authorized minister in the Baptist church, and was distinguished for his piety and benevolence. The doctor has a family of five beautiful daughters. Since he reached man's estate his pen and voice have found constant employment in aiding to direct public opinion on religious, political, and other general questions, as well as to encourage a love for the finer and nobler qualities which bless and adorn the lives of humanity.

Lucas Emory Pearce, physician and surgeon, Onarga, was born in Champaign county, Ohio, March 31, 1835. He was the second son of Harvey C. and Beulah (Barritt) Pearce. His father was a farmer,



and he spent his early days at the plow. He received his literary education at Delaware College, Ohio. From the age of sixteen to twenty-four he taught school ; meanwhile spending his leisure in private medical reading. He celebrated his nuptials with Elizabeth Frances McCollum, May 20, 1858. In 1862 he entered Starling Medical College, Columbus, but did not finish his course before beginning practice. A short time was spent in his profession in Ohio, when he located in Benton county, Indiana, where he resided three years. After this he removed his family back to Champaign county, continuing to reside there and practice until 1876. In 1868-9 he attended lectures again at Starling Medical College, graduating February 26, 1869. He united with the M. E. church at fifteen ; was superintendent of Sabbath schools in his native county many years ; was made a life member of the missionary society, and a local preacher, and regularly ordained a local deacon. In 1876 he removed and settled in Onarga, this county, where he has built up a very large practice, which is constantly increasing. He has an interesting family of four children: Frank, Mary, Harvey and Sadie. The doctor's grandfather, Thomas Pearce, was a soldier under Washington, and, as such, shared in the glory which crowned the American arms at Yorktown. He served also in the war of 1812. His mother's father, Abner Barritt, was a captain of the revolution, and fought at Bunker Hill and other places. He was a pioneer settler in Champaign county, Ohio, where he formed the acquaintance of the celebrated Indian chief, Tecumseh, who used to visit him frequently.

Andrew C. Rankin, physician and surgeon, Loda, is the son of Rev. John Rankin, a Presbyterian minister of note, and was born in Ripley, Ohio, June 22, 1828. He received a part of his literary education at Ripley College, of which his father was at the time president, and finished his course of study at Felicity, Ohio. In 1848 he began studying medicine under Dr. A. Dunlap, of Ripley, and was with him three years. He next attended two courses of lectures at Starling Medical College, Columbus, Ohio, and graduated in March, 1852. He located in Ross county, Ohio, one year, and then went to Atlanta, Logan county, Illinois, where he practiced till 1856. From there he removed to Lawrence, Kansas, spending two years in the border war, accompanying John Brown, and serving in the double capacity of soldier and surgeon. In the latter part of 1858 he returned to Illinois, and settled at Loda. In 1862 he entered the army as assistant surgeon of the 88th Ill. Vols. He resigned after one year and reëntered the army as surgeon, and had charge of several hospitals. The principal of these was the United States general hospital at Camp Nelson, Kentucky, which

had some fifteen hundred beds and required about fifteen assistants. He served about four years in the army and then returned to Loda and resumed his practice. On October 1, 1852, he married Susan Houser, who was born in Ohio, December 25, 1830. There are two children by this union: Ellen, wife of W. H. Copp, of Loda, and Louie Q., wife of Edwin Slocum, of the same place. Dr. Rankin has held offices of trust and responsibility, and given satisfaction to the people. He is well known both for his integrity as a man and his skill as a physician and surgeon. He is a member of the Presbyterian church, and a republican in politics. His father, now about ninety years old, has spent an active and useful life in the ministry. He still preaches occasionally. He was pastor of one church forty-five years, and wrote the call for the first anti-slavery meeting held in America. A portrait of Dr. Rankin appears in this work.

Winslow Woods, retired, Onarga, was born in Barnard, Windsor county, Vermont, March 30, 1799. He was the third son of Paul and Mary (Winslow) Woods. His ancestors were English. The Winslows he can trace back as far as 1530, Gov. Winslow, of Plymouth Colony, of whom he is a lineal descendant, being a member of this family. His grandfather, Jonathan Woods, settled in New Braintree, Massachusetts. The farm which he improved has never passed out of the family, and is the only one in the township which was never mortgaged. His uncle, John Woods, was an orderly sergeant in the revolutionary war, and singularly enough refused further promotion or to receive a pension. He wintered at Valley Forge. Mr. Woods was county surveyor of Windsor county from 1822 to 1834, when poor health obliged him to quit his farm, and he left the state. He had been constable, collector and special sheriff, the latter an office in which the incumbent was empowered to do business anywhere in the state. He now located at Tolland county, Connecticut, where he resided twenty years, engaged in manufacturing. On September 17, 1853, he arrived in Iroquois county, and settled on a farm of 320 acres in Stockland township. In the spring of 1860 he removed to Onarga, where he has continued to live until the present time. With his residence here he began the business of claim attorney, which he still carries on to some extent. He has held the office of supervisor, and for thirteen years held one or more of the following offices: justice of the peace, notary public and police magistrate. He has done a large business as guardian, and has had as many as twenty orphan children under his charge at one time. He is now eighty-one years of age. His portrait appears in this work. On March 10, 1824, he and Lydia Newton were united in marriage. She died February 14, 1869, and is buried in the cemetery at Onarga.

There were two sons by this marriage: Henry C., born April 20, 1829, and Lucius P., born March 12, 1831. They were both liberally educated, and served in the army with distinction. The latter was thoroughly educated in this country for the practice of medicine and surgery, and after a few years devoted to his profession he went to Europe, spending a year in some of the best medical schools, and in the hospitals on the continent. On the breaking out of the late civil war he was commissioned surgeon of the 5th N. Y. Cav., and by successive promotions rose to prominence in the medical branch of the service. He was surgeon of the cavalry corps field hospital; surgeon-in-chief, first brigade, third division, cavalry corps; surgeon-in-chief, third division, cavalry corps, and after he was mustered out, January 3, 1865, served at headquarters, third division, same corps, under contract, as acting staff surgeon from that date to March 3. He was in eighty-seven battles; was greatly distinguished as a surgeon and highly respected as a man, and died at Winsted, Connecticut, May 30, 1865. The resolutions of the officers of his old regiment, passed after his death, declare that "he added to rare professional skill the most untiring industry," and that "to the refinement of a gentleman he added social and Christian virtues rarely equaled." The other son, Henry C., enlisted at the outbreak of the war as a private in the 1st Ill. Cav., and was captured with Mulligan's force at Lexington, Missouri, in 1861. Subsequently he was a captain in the 11th Ill. Cav., Col. R. G. Ingersoll; was promoted to major, and commanded the regiment after the capture of his colonel. He served on the Atlanta campaign in the engineer corps, and was discharged after the fall of that city. He superintended work on a portion of the railroad bridge across the Mississippi at Burlington, and across the Missouri at Omaha, and afterward followed the same business farther west. He died suddenly at Kansas City of heart disease and pneumonia, March 3, 1879. His remains are interred at Onarga.

John H. Atwood, Principal of Onarga Commercial College, Onarga, was the youngest son of Charles Rice and Martha Chandler (Sherman) Atwood, and was born in Barre, Worcester county, Massachusetts, November 24, 1838. In the spring of 1839 his father emigrated with his family to Illinois, settling on Rock river, between Dixon and Sterling, where he preëmpted a claim. Here he was attacked with typhoid fever, and died August 14. His mother, being left alone with three children, suffered many privations; after much sickness in the family, and losing her personal property by fraud, she returned in destitute circumstances to her father's, in Massachusetts. The subject of this sketch remained with his grandfather until he was nine years old, when he went to live with his uncle. He worked on the farm



summers and went to the district school winters till he was fourteen, when he began to manage for himself. His first step was to get a place where he could work for his board and attend a high school. He averaged six months each year, and at the age of seventeen began teaching. Being advised by friends of the advantage of having a trade, he learned dentistry, but having no taste for the business abandoned it, and again started to school determined to get a liberal education. With an unfaltering purpose he adhered to this resolution eleven years, going to school and teaching by turns, and working on the farm, or in the palm-leaf shop during vacations; privately pursuing his studies with zeal when out of school. He took a regular course of study at both Colton's Commercial College, Springfield, Massachusetts, and at the Massachusetts State Normal School, at Westfield, and in the latter penmanship. The devotion with which he pursued this favorite object led him to decline an offer of partnership with his instructor, with a guaranteed income of \$1,200 a year. In 1865 he came west for his health, taught school five months, and bought a farm near El Paso. He was married at that place March 29, 1866, to Martha Jane Parkhurst. They have four children. The next fall, being tendered the principalship of the west side graded school in El Paso, he accepted it, and a little while after sold his farm. Teaching there two years, he moved then, in the fall of 1868, to Onarga, to take the same position in the graded school in that place. He filled that post till 1870, and was then employed one year as teacher in Grand Prairie Seminary. The next year he was appointed principal of the commercial department. Before entering upon this new field of instruction, he prepared himself with a special course of study in Bryant & Stratton's Commercial College. Two years later he took another course at Dyhrenfurth's. Prof. Atwood has conducted this school with acknowledged success. For completeness, thoroughness and practical value, the course which is here provided has no superior anywhere. The professor is known to be a man of untiring energy, and the private care and attention which he gives to individual students, and the special interest he imparts to all the work, and displays for the success of his classes, with every other advantage of the course, have given the Onarga Commercial College a growing and substantial reputation.

Samuel H. Harper, farmer, Onarga, was born in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, March 20, 1814. He was the fourth child in a family of six children. In 1817 his parents, Samuel and Mary (McCoy) Harper, moved and settled near Columbus, in Franklin county, Ohio. He received such an education as was afforded by the district schools of that day. In the fall of 1837 he and they, together with several

others (twenty-one altogether), emigrated to this county, and arrived on Middle Spring creek, in the present township of Onarga, where they settled October 2, 1837. This arrival, including the few who had previously come, was the foundation of a pioneer community which, for social and religious character, is not often equaled. The only survivors of the party are Mr. Harper, Diana Harper, Thomas M. Pangborn and wife, Ransom B. Pangborn, Cynthia Lowe (wife of Hiram Lowe), Almira Root and Nelson Skeels. Mr. Harper married Miss Mary Lehigh, April 16, 1839. She was the daughter of Experience Lehigh, whose portrait is given in this book, and was born in Mason county, West Virginia, May 22, 1820. Her parents settled and lived in Vermilion county, Indiana, several years before coming here. They have had ten children, eight of whom are living: Harriet L. (dead), George W., Alexander, John (dead), Alvira, Harriet Experience, Florence Ella, Margaret J., Eva and Eddy. John enlisted in Co. D, 113th Ill. Vol., August 15, 1862. He fought at the battle of Arkansas Post; was acting quartermaster sergeant of a colored regiment, and in September, 1864, was captured near La Grange, Tennessee, and no tidings of him have ever reached his family. Alexander served a term of three years also in the same regiment. Mr. Harper has been a trustee of Grand Prairie Seminary since it was built. He and his wife have been members of the Methodist church about forty years, and Mr. Harper has been steward and trustee most of the time since. His father was a soldier of 1812. Mr. Harper is one of the substantial and respected citizens of Onarga township.

Thomas M. Pangborn, farmer, Onarga, oldest child of John and Miranda (Miller) Pangborn, was born in Keene, Essex county, New York, June 1, 1806. His progenitors were early English settlers in this country. Several of his ancestors were enrolled as yeomen soldiery in the revolution. Each, his father and his mother, had an uncle confined by the British in some of the Wallabout prison-ships (these were the Stromboli, Scorpion, Hunter, Falmouth, Scheldt, and Clyde), sisters to the Old Jersey, truly and graphically denominated by outraged humanity and public judgment, "The Hell." In 1816 Judge Pangborn's father emigrated with his family to Franklin county, Ohio, where they made or cleared two farms. On March 15, 1832, the subject of this sketch was married to Miss Jane Harper, a sister to our much esteemed fellow-citizen, Samuel H. Harper. They have had six children—two sons, who died in infancy, and the four daughters following: Triphenia, who was born November 4, 1834, married to Elkanah Doolittle, and died July 22, 1868; Emily, born December 21, 1838; Mary Ann, born April 19, 1841, wife of Charles Haven; and

Miranda, born November 19, 1843, wife of Elkanah Doolittle. Mr. Pangborn was one of the party who settled on Middle Spring Creek October 2, 1837, from Franklin county, Ohio, a further account of which may be found in the sketch of S. H. Harper. He entered 240 acres on Sec. 30, T. 26, R. 14. In 1853 he was elected associate judge of Iroquois county, and held that office till 1857. From the adoption of the free-school system he was trustee nineteen years in succession. He has been a member of the M. E. church forty-one years, and Mrs. Pangborn forty-three years. He was a class-leader in the church from 1843 to 1879. Mr. Pangborn was one of the prominent early settlers of this county. The good name and reputation which he enjoys, as a man and a citizen, is due more to his exemplary life and perfect Christian character than to any other influence. Judge Pangborn has a portrait in this work.

Rev. James P. Forsythe, preacher, Onarga, was the youngest child of John and Ruth (McKnight) Forsythe, and was born in Shippensburg, Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, March 12, 1830. His father was a Scotchman. His mother died when he was twelve years old. While a youth he worked on his father's farm and attended the common schools. He next went to the academy at Worthington, where he obtained a good English education. At the age of nineteen he was converted, and united with the M. E. church at Cumberland City, Maryland. Since that time he has sustained almost constant official relation to the church. On February 9, 1854, he and Rosanna Mechling were united in marriage at Worthington, Armstrong county, Pennsylvania. They immediately settled in Vinton county, Ohio, and, after a residence of two years there, moved to Illinois City, Rock Island county, in this state. Here he engaged some in farming and school-teaching; and in 1857 was licensed to preach. In 1863 he entered the traveling connection in the Central Illinois Conference. Beginning with that year he filled the following appointments successively: Ronnd Grove, two years; Chatsworth, two years; Watseka, one year; Loda, two years; Watseka, one year; and in the fall of 1871 was appointed by the conference financial agent of Grand Prairie Seminary. He has lived in Onarga since the last date. In 1878 he became pastor of the Methodist church at Clifton, and fills that pulpit at the present time. Mr. Forsythe's ministry has been successful in the building up of the church and the increasing of the membership of each charge where he has labored. When he undertook the control of the financial interests of the seminary the endowment was coming due, and he has managed its collection with practical success. He properly ranks with men of strong convic-



tions and stable belief. He preaches the truth as he understands it; assails and exposes sin with the sword of the spirit; and to the bruised heart he brings the glad tidings and soothing influences of the Saviour's love. He is especially direct and practical in his enforcement of the truth and in his invitations to the erring. He is held in high esteem by his brethren, and his standing with the conference, as a man and minister, is in the highest degree favorable to his reputation. They have had two children: Emma Jane, born February 13, 1856; died August 26, 1857; and Dora A., born February 6, 1860. Miss Forsythe is a member of the senior class of Grand Prairie Seminary, which graduates the present year. She belongs to the Methodist church, and is active and efficient in Sunday-school work.

Luther T. Clark, Onarga, was born in Manchester, Dearborn county, Indiana, June 18, 1830. His father was a merchant, and he was reared behind the counter. He enjoyed such advantages for education as were common in that day. At the age of eighteen he settled in Marshall county, Illinois, where he entered 208 acres of government land, on section 3, in Saratoga township. He afterward sold this land to Thomas Jemieson, and then bought a quarter-section on the other side of the county line,—S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 34, Milo township, in Bureau county. While living in this county he was married, at Versailles, Indiana, to Miss Mary E. King. She was born in Kingfield, Maine, and was a descendant of the first governor of that state, Rufus King. She died December 18, 1854, and was buried in the cemetery at Henry, Illinois. They had one daughter, Alice E., born July 24, 1854, and died December 29, 1873. She is buried in the cemetery at Onarga. In the fall of 1853 Mr. Clark settled in Henry, and engaged in the grain business one year. In the spring of 1855 he removed to Ash Grove, Iroquois county, and settled on the old Nunamaker farm, now owned and occupied by Squire Wesley Harvey. That fall his father's family came from Indiana to this county, and the next spring his father came with a stock of goods. They went into partnership, which continued about one year. He then moved out on the prairie on a new farm, now the John Bond estate. He speculated largely in land, and farmed during his residence in Ash Grove township. He was supervisor two years, beginning with 1858. In the fall of 1860 he was elected sheriff of Iroquois county, on the republican ticket, and held that office two years. The court-house was destroyed by fire, and the prisoner, Davis, burned to death, during his term. He hung the second man executed in the county—McDonald, alias McLaughlin. His crime was the killing of his brother-in-law at Ashkum. In 1862 he settled on his farm at Onarga. He was mar-

ried to Miss Melvina Hall, May 1, 1856. She was born in Mason county, Virginia, December 10, 1833. Their children are: Charles A., born August 23, 1857; William A., September 15, 1858; Emma E., March 16, 1860; Albert F., April 10, 1868. Charles A. is an energetic and industrious farmer, and resides on the old homestead, which he has recently purchased. He was married in the fall of 1878 to Miss Mattie Wheeler, of Onarga. William A. is now in Colorado. Emma E. graduates in the Latin scientific course of Grand Prairie Seminary June 10 of this year, and has also taken the German course. She is a young lady whose beautiful life and personal accomplishments impart sunshine and gladness to her home and friends. Mr. Clark was assessor of Onarga township for a number of years. From the time he settled on his farm south of Onarga, until recently, he was principally engaged in raising fine stock and in fruit growing. In the spring of 1875, in company with Lee C. Brown, he went to France for the Onarga Importing Company and brought over nine Percheron stallions. In the fall he purchased town property and removed to the village. He has belonged to the order of Freemasonry about fifteen years. He was formerly a whig, and when the republican party was organized joined it, and has ever been a consistent adherent to its principles. Mr. Clark is a respected and valuable citizen.

Moses Haynes Messer, surveyor and civil engineer, Onarga, was born January 29, 1829, in Methuen, Massachusetts. He is the fourth child of Matthew and Ruth (Haynes) Messer, who reared ten children, nine of whom are living. His father was born January 1, 1800, and his mother March 14, 1798. They were married in May, 1822. The Messers and Hayneses are an ancient stock. In about 1665 an old man and eight sons settled in Haverhill, Massachusetts, and tradition says the father returned to Germany on business, and was never heard from after that time. In a few years the sons moved up the Merrimac to the east part of Methuen, and bought land and made homes near each other. The house, built of wood, in which the subject of this sketch was born, was erected in 1725, and was one hundred and twenty-three years old when replaced by another in 1848; the deed of the farm from Abial Messer to his son Richard bears date 1725. Joseph and John Haynes, from England, arrived at Salem, Massachusetts, in 1633. The latter was governor of the colony in 1635; in 1636 he settled in Connecticut, and was the first governor there. From the date of his arrival till 1654, when he died, he was governor of that colony alternate years. He was one of the six commissioners who drew up the first written constitution of any colony in America, which embodies the main points of all the state constitutions. Joseph settled

in Newburyport, and a few years later in Haverhill. Matthew Messer was a hat manufacturer over forty years. Moses worked in his father's shop till he was twenty-one, attending the district school each winter up to the age of sixteen; then walked three miles to a private school taught by Moses and Nancy Burbank. This was attended three successive winters with a neighbor boy, S. G. Sargent. Neither was once late or absent during the whole time. Afterward he went to Pembroke Academy, New Hampshire, one term, and after he was twenty-one spent nearly two years at New Hampton Institute in the same state. In 1852 he was admitted to a private civil engineering class at Providence, Rhode Island, under the tuition of William A. Norton, and went with him to New Haven, Connecticut, the next fall, when the civil engineering school was commenced at Yale College. He remained there two terms. In 1853 he was engaged in the city engineer's office in Boston, then in western Pennsylvania and New Hampshire, and in 1854 again in Massachusetts. He arrived in Chicago June 1, 1855, and was employed first by the Illinois Central Railroad Company, and afterward by Thomas and Henry Perry, of Kankakee city, to do surveying. In October, 1855, he settled in Onarga on government land. He held the office of county surveyor from 1859 to 1865; was justice of the peace from 1856 to 1868; United States internal revenue assessor for three years from 1862, and school director from 1862 to 1871. Mr. Messer was united in marriage with Lucinda Lehigh, daughter of Experience Lehigh, whose portrait appears in this work, January 29, 1858. The issue of this union has been three living children: Clarence Edgar, Augusta and Angie, and a son and daughter dead. He entertains progressive views on all political questions; was once a republican, but more recently has been a prohibitionist, and is liberal in his religious opinions. His inclinations have always been for philosophy and the natural sciences. He walked five miles to spend, for a Comstock's Natural Philosophy, about the first half-dollar that he ever owned. He read that through twice by himself, and then pursued the study several terms in school. He is fond of controversy, but debates for information; he has decided convictions, and is frank and fearless in the expression of them.

Samuel Mason Ayres, retired, Beech Hill, Mason county, West Virginia, son of Samuel and Lydia T. (Carey) Ayres, was born January 25, 1808. When he was two years old his parents moved to Chatauqua county, New York. He was living beside Lake Chatauqua at the time of Perry's victory on Lake Erie, and remembers the cannonading and the excitement on shore. A Capt. Bird and some of the other neighbors were killed in the engagement. In the spring of 1822 his



father removed his family to Mason county, West Virginia. Young Ayres was trained in a knowledge of farm life, and attended the common schools of the day. When he was twenty-one his father died, leaving to his care his widowed mother and four younger sisters. In 1834 he came to Iroquois county to view the country, and in 1836 permanently settled here. An episode in Mr. Ayres' life shows that the course of true love never runs smooth. When children at school, he and Melinda Long betrothed themselves, and seven or eight years were beguiled away under the happy influence of those young and tender affections which make life a dreamland, and give everything renewed beauty, and a single presence magic power. Ayres was poor, but her people were rich, and of course opposed the union. In the spring of 1832 an elopement to the west was planned. Though love may laugh at locksmiths, and display admirable skill and resources on extraordinary occasions, it cannot be expected every time to overcome war, pestilence and high water. The consummation of their plans was first prevented by the great freshets of that year; then came the Black-hawk war, and later in the season the cholera. Having been foiled in the first great enterprise of their lives, when Ayres was thinking of coming west, they mutually agreed to annul the sacred contract. January 22, 1835, he and Elizabeth Grice were married. His first love afterward became the wife of Joseph Holden. The latter died not long after, and she went home to her father's to lead a widowhood of fifteen years. In course of time seven children had come to Ayres. His wife died April 15, 1854, and her dying request was that he should marry her whom he had first loved. He obeyed this injunction, probably without regret, March 22, 1855. She died October 23, 1873, and he celebrated his third marriage with her sister, Maria L. Long, October 27, 1874. His children all died young, except a daughter, who grew up and married. She is now dead; three children survive her. In 1851 Mr. Ayres sold his farm on Spring Creek to Seely Hetfield, and went to Middleport and engaged in merchandising. In 1853 he was elected an associate justice of Iroquois county. In 1856 he returned to West Virginia to live; but in 1863, having been three times overrun by each the federal and rebel armies, and suffered much, he sold his farm and moved back to this county, where he owned much land. In 1868 he again returned to his old neighborhood in Virginia. He makes yearly visits to Iroquois county, to meet his numerous friends and look after his large landed interest here. He owns about 2,200 acres, valued at \$45,000.

Edward Stanton Gilbert, editor, Onarga, was born February 5, 1862, in Ash Grove township, Iroquois county, Illinois. He lived

upon the farm until the spring of 1875, when he moved with his parents to Onarga. The latter returned in the fall, and January 1, 1876, he was apprenticed to J. B. Lowe, of the "Onarga Review," to learn the printing trade. He was an employe of the "Review" office until April 1, 1880, when he became its editor and proprietor. Mr. Gilbert is a young man of steady and industrious habits. He has been a faithful worker in the "Review" office, and has labored hard to merit the position which he now holds. He begins his career as editor with the confidence and good wishes of the whole community.

George Franklin Page, the director of the Conservatory of Music at Onarga, whose portrait will be found in this work, was born August 21, 1854, in Peabody, Massachusetts, being the third of four brothers. His father, Andrew J. Page, was a native of Deerfield, New Hampshire. He is a man of great integrity and industry, but has suffered financially from two sweeping conflagrations, from which, however, he is now recovering by plying his habits of industry in his later home in Philadelphia. His mother's name before marriage was Elizabeth N. Stevens. She was born in Augusta, Maine. She was a lady of much culture and intelligence, which were utilized first in the school-room, and more especially later in the family circle. She was a devoted mother; and, after assisting her family to maturity, she died, 1870, aged fifty-three. Professor Page's paternal ancestry was English and his maternal, French. Both of these families, in their European homes, possessed large fortunes, reaching the figures of the millionaire; but, owing to the difficulty of transferring titles to persons in the colonies of the new world, the American heirs never realized upon those fortunes. Ecclesiastically his father's ancestors, far back, were Baptists; his mother's as uniformly Methodists. Prof. Page, when but one year old, was seriously afflicted with a fever, the effect of which made him an intense sufferer for fourteen years. At about one and one-half years the disease began to make such inroads that life was despaired of, and for days, weeks and years death was inevitable. Indeed the pitying world unanimously resolved that death would be a mercy to the sufferer. In these hopeless circumstances his parents maintained hopes, and especially his mother clung to him as only a mother will and can, through the darkest days. Several surgical operations were performed with but little success. Thus time passed to young Page, debarred from the cheerful prospects of a life which others of the same age entering were about to enjoy. His fourteenth year found no relief, but the boy himself had ambition as well as determination. He visited a distinguished surgeon in Lowell, Massachusetts, for advice. The reply, after examination, imported that but one chance in a hundred

promised his survival in the dangerous operation which might relieve. Young Page calmly resolved that the risk was better than a life of oblivion, and accepted that hundredth chance. The result of the operation was a fair and almost unexpected restoration of health, and as a consequence the boy was restored to the same channels of hope as others. In these days of seclusion he studied music for a recreation, but developed great aptitude for and enthusiasm in it. While he made some proficiency in literary studies, yet music was the inspiration. Occasionally, at seventeen, he appeared in public concerts. He had so far progressed at eighteen that he gave a concert in his own city, Woonsocket. From sixteen to nineteen he had musical instruction from the most eminent teachers of the eastern cities. At nineteen he went to Leipsic, Germany, where still greater musical advantages were acquired. This city is the well-known book market of the world, the depositories of libraries and of literature. Its music is correspondingly matured. Here it becomes one of the great centers for foreigners as well as Germans to obtain the best educational facilities. Its conservatory is one of the oldest in Europe, founded in the first part of the present century by the renowned masters, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Becker, etc. Here, with the best masters, he qualified himself for the profession. He made great proficiency as a *primo virtuoso*, having, among others, as instructor, the renowned piano teacher, Prof. Theodore Coecious. Upon Prof. Page's return from Europe he located at Woonsocket, Rhode Island, appearing in many concerts; in the meantime he was elected as supervisor of music in the public schools of the city. At the end of the first year he gave a concert, in which five hundred of the public-school pupils participated. In this experience he was particularly successful in the rare skill of training younger pupils rapidly on the true basis of the art and science of music. This position he successfully filled for two years, until called west, July 1, 1878. Prof. Page was married at Albion, Rhode Island, to Miss Hattie J. Marble, a native of that state, and a graduate of the State Normal School. On the same day he received notice of his election as director of the Onarga Conservatory. Prof. J. B. Robinson, D.D., president of Grand Prairie Seminary and Commercial College, had seen what a broad field was in this part of the state for a musical enterprise, and knew well that everything depended upon the director. While over forty candidates were presented for the position, Prof. Page was finally selected. The conservatory, in nucleus, had hitherto been a mere musical department of the seminary, but the new plan was to develop, extend and enlarge it, in its own edifice as a coördinate school with the seminary and commercial college, which had before success-



ively taken prominence. Accordingly a new departure was taken, the building prepared, and announcements made to the public. Prof. Page brought in a supply of new pianos, music, etc., and the necessary outfit for the enterprise. The first year's result was a happy surprise to friends and strangers. The enrollment and progress were such as to convince all that the conservatory was safely founded and widely patronized. At the beginning of the second year it was evident that additional accommodations must be had for the increasing growth of the conservatory. A large edifice was secured and new instruments added. Thus it may be noted that Prof. Page has taken hold of this conservatory with enthusiasm, and advanced it to a high degree of excellence. He is still pursuing his duties in a long engagement with the conservatory at Onarga.

The following is contributed by J. W. Mac Loud:

Eli S. Ricker, student, Onarga, is the son of Bradford W. and Catherine (Harmon) Ricker, and was born at Brownfield, Oxford county, Maine, September 29, 1843. His father was born September 17, 1803, and died April 25, 1864. His mother was born August 30, 1802, and died March 9, 1875. There is a tradition that her ancestors came over in the *Mayflower*; but whether this be true or not, it is true that they settled in America in very early times. At an early date in our country's history two brothers by the name of Ricker came from England, separated, and the one from whom the subject of this sketch has descended settled in Massachusetts, and afterward removed to the province of Maine. His father was twice married. By his first wife was born one son, William Ricker, now living in Nebraska. His mother was also twice married. The name of her first husband was Dennis Marr, a member of the Marr family of Scotland. He died in 1831. By this marriage were born two daughters: Narcissa and Sarah Abigail; the former died young, the latter is the wife of John G. Thorn, and lives at Galesburg, Illinois. Her second marriage was to Bradford W. Ricker in the summer of 1842. Their children were Eli Seavey and Mary Ann. The latter is the wife of Clinton Boyd, and lives in Ohio. In March, 1855, the Ricker family came west and settled near Oneida, Knox county, Illinois. Mr. Ricker's father was a man of good business talent, extensive information, a lover of education, and in politics a Jackson democrat. Mr. Ricker was reared a farmer, and followed that calling until 1875. He early took a deep interest in politics, and at the age of sixteen began writing occasional articles for the country press, a practice which he has ever since continued. For education he had the advantages of the district school, which he attended in winter, helping his father on the farm in sum-

mer. The absorbing desire of his life was to become a scholar. In the summer of 1862 he was preparing to enter Lombard University at Galesburg, when the call came for 300,000 men. He immediately decided to leave all and go to the defense of his country. He enlisted, August 4, 1862, in Co. I, 102d Ill. Vol., for three years. He was mustered into United States service at camp of organization, Knoxville, Knox county, Illinois, September 2, 1862. Soon after this his regiment proceeded to the seat of war at Louisville, Kentucky. He served on the Atlanta campaign in the 20th corps, commanded by Gen. Hooker. He fought at Resaca, and was one of the storming force, consisting of the first brigade, third division, twentieth army corps, that in the face of its deadly fire captured a four-gun battery of twelve-pounders, close to the enemy's intrenchments, and fought desperately from noon till ten o'clock at night, in a successful effort to hold their position and retain their prize. He fought at Peach Tree creek, which was an open battle, and a disastrous repulse to the rebels. This was the first of the three great battles around Atlanta. The city fell September 2, when was ended the campaign of a hundred days, during which the soldiers were seldom from under fire, or out of the sound of musketry or cannon. He then went on the march to the sea. He did duty as one of Sherman's "bummers" upon the campaign of the Carolinas, and in this service, as a forager, was engaged in numerous small fights. He terminated his active military life on the grand review of Sherman's army in the capital of the nation, May 24, 1865. He was mustered out at Washington, June 6, and disbanded at Camp Fry, Chicago, June 15. After the war he worked a year and a half for C. C. Houghton, of Henry county, Illinois, without understanding as to pay, and upon settlement was allowed \$5 per month more than he charged. In the spring of 1867, by the aid of his friend and patron, C. C. Houghton, he began broomcorn-raising. July 3, 1867, he was married to Mary M. Smith, daughter of William H. and Mary L. (Chaffee) Smith. They have five children, two sons and three daughters: Albion H., born April 11, 1868; Mary C., November 29, 1869; Sarah E., November 19, 1871; Leslie D., July 30, 1873, and Jessie I., September 4, 1879. In February, 1869, Mr. Ricker settled on the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 9, T. 24, R. 14, then Loda, now Pigeon Grove township, Iroquois county, where he continued the raising of broomcorn. Over-production of broomcorn in 1870 broke down the market. Heavy rains during the harvest so damaged his brush that he suffered reverses, which after five years of determined effort he was not able to overcome. During this time he was kindly assisted by Goodell and Warren, of Loda. He was commissioned justice of the peace in 1872, and again in 1873. He was early

and actively engaged in the farmers' movement, and was secretary of several of their organizations. In the fall of 1875 he came to Onarga and commenced a course in the commercial college, in which he graduated in two terms. Since then he has given one year to studies in the literary department of Grand Prairie Seminary, designing to finish the course. In the summer of 1875 Mr. and Mrs. Ricker united with the Methodist church. In politics he is a republican. For over a year Mr. Ricker has been in the employ of the publishers of this work.

William H. Shannon, farmer, Papineau, is a native of Kingston, Canada, and was born May 20, 1844. In 1856 he, with his parents, Mr. William and Cintha (Metzler) Shannon, came to Illinois, and settled in Papineau township, Iroquois county. They have, since coming to this county, been engaged in farming and stock-raising. On February 6, 1865, the subject of this sketch enlisted in the 150th Ill. Vol., and on account of disability was discharged June 16, 1865. On March 11, 1868, he married Miss Sarah E. Jones, daughter of Henry Jones, Papineau's first permanent settler. He now has five children: Cora May, John H., George W., Mina J. and Philip. His brother, John M., was a member of Waterhouse's battery, and died at Shiloh on the morning of the day of that memorable battle. When Mr. Shannon came to this county it was very sparsely settled. He has seen its great growth and prosperity—its golden fields of grain in place of wild prairie.

Perry Darst, dentist, Sheldon, was born in Iroquois county, Illinois, on August 9, 1851, and lived on the old farm where he was born, with his father (his mother died when he was about three years old), engaged in farming, stock-raising and attending school. At about the age of twenty his father died. Soon after this sad event in his life he left the old home and engaged in farming as a renter, but not finding that suited to his mind he turned his attention to study for some profession, and has finally decided on dentistry, which he is now studying in the dental rooms at Sheldon, Iroquois county, Illinois. His father, Mr. Hiram Darst, was born in West Virginia on January 4, 1828. At about the age of fifteen years he came to Iroquois county, and so became one of the early pioneers, settling in what is now Papineau township when it was an unsettled wilderness, when deer and other wild animals were about the only occupants of the boundless prairies. His nearest market for many years was Chicago, where he sold corn for twenty-five cents per bushel, after hauling about seventy miles with a team, fording rivers and streams, no bridges being then built. He kept the pioneer store in the township. On September 5, 1850, he married Miss Mary Jones, a native of Ohio. She died July 11, 1855, being a victim of the terrible cholera epidemic of 1855.



Again he married on November 5, 1857, this time to Miss Amanda Lawhead, of this county. She died January 24, 1868, and for his third wife he married Mrs. Abbie E. Warren, who still survives him; and on May 2, 1872, he died, leaving, besides his wife, five children, as follows: Perry, the subject of this sketch, Benjamin F., Andrew H., Artinsa and Eva E. Being one of the excellent men, his death was greatly mourned by his family and friends.

James P. Martin, Martinton, deceased. The subject of this sketch was one of the early settlers of Iroquois county, and a pioneer in that part which afterward acquired his name (Martinton township). He was born January 17, 1829, in Orange county, Vermont, and but little of the surroundings of his early life are known. In September, 1849, he emigrated to the state of Ohio, and in 1851 removed to Will county, Illinois, where he resided until April, 1855, when he permanently located in Iroquois county, residing in the locality above stated. It was mainly through his efforts that a thrifty and enterprising community settled in the vicinity where he resided. For many years he represented his township in the board of supervisors, and secured the unlimited confidence of his neighbors, which he always retained and never betrayed. In his political faith he was a republican. In 1864 he was elected sheriff of Iroquois county, which office he held for two years. He discharged the duties of his office with honor to himself, and with credit to the party that elected him. When the war of the rebellion broke out in 1861, Mr. Martin gave his efforts to raise a company for the 25th Ill. This company was raised mainly by his efforts, he himself enlisted in it, and was elected first-lieutenant, in which capacity he served about eighteen months, and acquired the respect and confidence of his men and superior officers. Becoming prostrate with camp diarrhœa, from which he never recovered, and which finally terminated in his death, he was compelled to resign his position in the army and return to his home. When but partially recovered he again began recruiting for the army, and through his efforts, more than any other reason, Iroquois county boasts of having furnished her quota of troops by volunteers, and was saved from the enforcement of the draft. He was eminently an active and useful member of society, and in his death, which occurred October 19, 1869, the community lost a worthy and valued citizen. Besides many friends, he left to mourn his loss a wife and family. Mrs. Martin still resides on the old farm, and has devoted her time to managing her property and educating and caring for her children, in both of which she has displayed much more ability than many men placed under similar responsibilities.

Martin Burnham, retired, Watseka. The subject of this sketch is

descended from a family who probably trace their genealogy back farther than any of the citizens of Iroquois county. He has in his possession a complete genealogy of the family. The following quotation is taken from the opening chapter of that work, which shows the origin of the name: "Walter Le Ventre came to England at the Conquest, 1066, in the train of his cousin-german, Earl of Warren, and at the Survey, 1080, was made lord of the Saxon village of Burnham, county of Norfolk, and of many other manors. From this manor he took his surname, De Burnham, and became the ancestor of the numerous family of that name." Mr. Burnham is a native of Orange county, Vermont, where he was born February 21, 1828. He received a good education and remained at his native place until the age of twenty-one. He then came west, and first stopped at Chicago for a time. From there he concluded to go to California, but he had left home with but \$35 in money, and was in no condition financially to make the trip. However, he succeeded in finding a party who would help him through and trust him to pay the amount after their arrival in California. They had got as far as the Missouri river when the gentleman with whom he was going concluded to return to the east. This left Mr. Burnham to make new arrangements, which he did with another party upon similar terms. A short time after their arrival he made enough to pay the debt honorably. He remained in California and Oregon about two years, mining, prospecting and dealing in cattle. He arrived at his old home again, in Vermont, in January of 1853. His intentions were to have gone back to California, but, getting married, changed his plans very materially. He was married November 2, 1853, to Miss Martha Martin, she also being a native of Vermont. In 1864 Mr. Burnham came west and located in Martinton township, where he remained a resident until the spring of 1880, when he removed to Watseka, Illinois, leaving the farm to be conducted by his two sons. His old farm in Martinton township, which is something over 200 acres, is well known as one of the finest and best improved, and supplied with the finest buildings, of any farm in that part of the county. He has also given some attention to the raising of fine cattle. In political affairs he has been an active republican, though never an office seeker. Now he and Mrs. Burnham are enjoying the fruits of the harder labor of younger days.

The late Dr. William A. Babcock, of Onarga, Illinois, was born in 1818, in the town of North Stonington, Connecticut. He was of the original New England stock, being a direct descendant of one of three brothers Babcock, who emigrated from old England at an early day in the history of our country. Having enjoyed the usual advantages of

a New England education, he went south in his early manhood, and spent some time in teaching. About 1840 he returned north, and devoted himself to the study of medicine, and in 1845 he graduated at the University of New York, with the degree of Doctor of Medicine. In 1846 he married Miss Harriet Coats, of North Stonington, and commenced the practice of his profession in Salem, Connecticut, where he remained for some three years. He then located at the town of Lyme, at the mouth of the Connecticut river, where he continued the laborious and successful practice of his profession in town and country, and over the rugged hills of New London county for some eight years. In January, 1857, a company was organized in New London county with the view of emigrating to Illinois and settling upon the lands of the great Illinois Central railway, then just completed. Dr. Babcock becoming identified with this enterprise, purchased lands in what became known as the Connecticut settlement, also in the vicinity of the then small village of Onarga, where he finally settled with his family. For a time he devoted some attention to farming, but his skill as a physician was too well known among his old neighbors for him to be allowed to retire from his profession. He soon became known, far and near, as an eminently safe, reliable and successful physician, and he found himself again engaged in an extensive practice on the broad prairies of Illinois. As a man and as a physician Dr. Babcock had some marked traits of character. In the practice of his profession he was what may be called eminently philosophical in distinction from what is termed empirical. He relied largely on nature and the vital powers to do their share in the work of healing and restoration. The constitution and habits of the patient were carefully studied. If the patient needed rest, or a change of diet or of habits or of climate, more than dosing with medicine, the doctor did not hesitate to tell him so. In his professional visits in an intelligent family, his frank, open and candid manner at once gained confidence, and forbade the suspicion that he could in any contingency resort to the arts and practices of the quack and the charlatan. If nothing could be done for a patient the doctor was the last man to deceive friends with false hopes, or to take advantage of the painful occasion by the practice of well-known arts for the promotion of his own personal emolument. This was all in perfect harmony with his known honesty and integrity of purpose, and with his outspoken contempt for all pretense, sham and quackery in every form, and more especially in the line of his own chosen profession. Dr. Babcock continued in the successful practice of his profession at Onarga and in the surrounding country, until our great civil war came on. Of his career during the war we know of no one



more competent to speak than Judge Blades, of Watseka, Illinois. The judge was at that time a doctor by profession, and was in a position to form a correct opinion of the surgeon and the man. The following discriminating and appreciative article was written by Judge Blades, on the occasion of the death of Dr. Babcock, and was published at the time in the Watseka "Republican." Without consulting the judge the writer takes the liberty of inserting it here as a fitting conclusion to this memorial. It may be well, however, first to remark that Dr. Babcock entered the army as assistant-surgeon of the 76th Ill., the first regiment of the state to be enrolled under the call for 600,000 men. He followed the varying fortunes of the war through several of the southern states, and was present at many sieges and battles. It was his high privilege to share in the closing campaign of the war, the investment of Mobile, and the war's closing battle—the storming of Fort Blakely. At the close of the war he was with the army at Galveston, where, in August, 1865, the army was disbanded, and Dr. Babcock returned to Onarga after a service of more than three years. He was promoted from the position of assistant-surgeon to that of surgeon of the 76th, and finally to that of division-surgeon, having many surgeons and their assistants under him. The following is the article by Judge Blades:

"TO THE EDITORS OF THE 'REPUBLICAN':

"This county, and especially the community of Onarga, has met with a serious loss in the death of Dr. William A. Babcock, who died at his residence in the village of Onarga, on the 7th instant. It had been my good fortune to know the doctor intimately for many years, and I am sure no one can testify with greater heartiness than myself to the excellent qualities and virtues of the man, and also to his eminent professional attainments. We were both, and at the same time, on the medical staff of the 76th Ill. Vol. Inf. in the great war of the rebellion; and for many months we occupied the same tent and ate at the same board. I came to know him with great intimacy, and had opportunities to observe him under circumstances well calculated to develop various and subtle phases of character, as also to test his professional courage and resources. I found him to be a man of strong convictions on every subject to which he professed to have given attention; earnest, plain and emphatic in giving expression to his opinions, and thoroughly upright in all that he did. He had a moral contempt for all subterfuge, shallowness and sham. He was well learned in his profession, having graduated in the University of New York, in 1845, in the days when the illustrious Valentine Mott was the glory and pride of American surgeons. His powers of shrewd and patient observation, together with his long professional experience, had imparted a solidity to his judgment and an acuteness to his intuitions that gave great value to his professional advice. Withal, he was modest, even diffident, and rarely, except when brought into contact with ignorance or insolence, would the great decision and courage of the man be exhibited. During my service with him in the army I have sometimes been amused at the dumfounded astonishment of some one who had presumed upon the retiring and reticent demeanor of the doctor, at the sudden and sometimes terrible energy he displayed. He was a man of high patriotism. He went into the army out of a strong desire to bear a part in the great struggle for the preservation and redemption of his country; and he entered that department of the service where, above all other places, he could be most useful. And that he was greatly useful none can know so well as those who served with him in the army, many of whom, including myself, will gratefully remember, to the end of life, the devotion and professional skill he displayed when they were lying at death's door. I have been long satisfied that it was his original and cour-

ageous treatment which saved me from a grave under the breastworks of Vicksburg. I lament that this tribute I pay him is so inadequate and so feebly expressed ; but I could not refrain from saying something. I could not bear that the dear old friend I had known so long should be covered up in the ground without some expression of my admiration for the man, and of my sorrow that he has departed, to be with us no more.

FRANKLIN BLADES."

We would add that, at the conclusion of the war, Dr. Babcock returned to his beautiful home in Onarga, where he resumed the practice of his profession, and in which he continued until the time of his death. He died April 7, 1875, of paralysis, aged fifty-seven years and seven months, leaving a faithful and devoted wife and an estimable daughter to mourn his loss. In the death of Dr. Babcock the poor and afflicted lost a kind and sympathizing friend, the town of Onarga and the county of Iroquois an eminent physician and surgeon, and the country a faithful, patriotic and distinguished citizen.

#### EXECUTION OF JOHN M'DONNELL.

On September 27, 1861, John McDonnell killed his brother-in-law, James Hare, in the store of Smith & Chapin, in Ashkum in this county, by striking him three times with a rod of iron, which he had procured from the blacksmith shop of Peter Kelly, and he was arrested and committed to jail. At the following November term of the circuit court he was indicted for murder, and arraigned for trial before the following jury: Joel Brandenburg, Oscar Kinney, O. W. Dean, James Cauvins, George Pineo, G. G. Newland, William S. Gould, J. H. Bishop, James Egbert, Putnam Gaffield, William Alderman and John Snyder ; Judge C. R. Starr presiding. The trial commenced December 5, 1861, and occupied that and the next day, and on the 6th a verdict of "guilty" was returned, and on the 21st McDonnell was sentenced to be hanged on Friday, January 14, 1862. C. H. Wood, Esq., was attorney for the state, and Fletcher & Kinney for the defense. The attorneys for the defense deeming some of the proceedings irregular, procured a reprieve for their client until February 7, to give them time to obtain a supersedeas from the supreme court, but failing in that, McDonnell was hanged February 7, 1862, Sheriff Luther T. Clark officiating at the execution. McDonnell, previous to his execution, made a confession in which he admitted the deed, but denied that he intended to kill Hare, but only intended to disable him, they having had much difficulty on account of Hare's interfering with his domestic relations. In this confession he stated that his name was not McDonnell, but Pat. McLaughlin, and that he was born in Donegal county, Ireland, in 1827, and came to this country in 1849, and a few years after married Bridget Hughes, by whom he had three children, and that she and the children were still living. He further stated that he killed a man by the name

of Huey McKeever, at Philadelphia, in a difficulty, and for which he had to run away, and after residing at Pittsburgh, New Orleans, St. Louis and other places, he came to Chicago, where he married Eliza Hare, and then moved to this county.

The execution took place in the grand jury room of the court-house at Middleport. The scaffold was composed of four posts with cross-pieces at top, on which was laid a piece of timber 6×4 inches, and eight feet long, with blocks and pulleys at the end, through which the rope passed by which, with a weight of 290 pounds, he was to be suspended. At forty minutes past eleven the culprit, attended by Father Theodore Van de Poel, of L'Erable, in this county, who had administered to him the last rites of the Catholic church, Sheriff Clark, Thomas Vennum, circuit clerk, Drs. McNeill, Harwood, Secrest and Hewins, and several others, entered the room. After prayer the black cap and noose were adjusted, and the rope suspending the weight, at one minute past twelve, was cut by the sheriff. At nine minutes after his heart ceased to beat and he was pronounced to be dead by the physicians in attendance, and in thirty minutes he was cut down. His body was given in charge of Father Van de Poel, and taken to L'Erable for burial.

EXECUTION OF FRANCIS MARION HARPER ALIAS JOHNSON, FOR THE MURDER OF D. W. NELSON, DECEMBER 22, 1865.—THE MURDER COMMITTED ON THE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 2, 1865. Harper was born in Morgan county, Indiana, in 1843. In 1864 he joined the 70th reg. Ind. Vol., but soon after deserted and came to Effingham, in this state, to which place his father, Henry Harper, and his mother and their family had removed. He soon after stole a horse from a Mr. Wilson, near that place, and took it to another part of the country and sold it. He then went to Gilman, in this county, and was employed by Mr. Maxson, who after some time discharged him. He then returned home and remained there six weeks, and then went to Kankakee city and became acquainted with a young man by the name of D. W. Nelson, who was from Muncie, Indiana, and engaged in making and selling stencil plates. Nelson had received a remittance of \$15 from his father, and foolishly exhibited the express package in which he had received it, in such a manner as to induce Harper to believe it contained \$1,500. In order to obtain this, after having procured a revolver, he induced Nelson to go with him to Gilman, on the night of November 2, 1865. After getting off the train at that place Harper invited Nelson to go down the road with him to the house of a friend, as he said, where he would introduce him to some female friends. When they had gone down the track about 100 rods Harper made a



remark about the coolness of the evening, and falling behind a step, drew his revolver and shot Nelson in the back of the head. The shot did not kill him; a struggle ensued and Harper choked his victim to death, robbed him of his money (which was but little), knife, a gold ring, watch and chain, and the box in which he carried his stencil materials. He then placed the body on the track for the purpose of having it mangled by the next train, went to Onarga, staid there until morning, got breakfast, had his coat mended (which had been torn in the struggle) by Mr. Wand, a tailor of that place, and soon after took a freight train for Kankakee. In the morning the body of the murdered man was found, with his name on his clothing. The fact was telegraphed along the road, was read by the operator at Clifton, and when the train arrived there it was discovered that a passenger had a hand box on which were the initials, "D. W. N.," and he was returned to Gilman and proved to be the murderer of Nelson. He was arrested, and an examination had and Sheriff James P. Martin sent for, who arrived in the evening and took him into custody. While waiting for the train three attempts were made by a mob to hang Harper, but he was rescued by the sheriff alone, and who took him to the Kankakee jail. This proves what a *determined officer, who regards his oath*, can sometimes do in the face of a cowardly mob.

At the November term of the circuit court of Iroquois county he was indicted. He was arraigned for trial before the court, Judge C. R. Starr presiding, William T. Ament for the state, and Chester Kinney and C. F. McNeill for the defense. The following persons composed the jury which tried the case: Tilden Graham, George Wright, James Romine, Ripley F. Young, Stephen Jessup, Martin Cottrill, George Miller, James McClintock, Isaac Peniston, Milton Gooding, Jacob Cain and Justus Smith. November 30 the jury returned a verdict of "guilty," and on December 1, Harper was sentenced by the court to be hanged on December 22, 1865, between the hours of ten and four o'clock. He was brought from the Kankakee jail by Sheriff Sherman, on Thursday, the 21st, and placed in the custody of Sheriff James P. Martin, who had erected an inclosure 16×18 feet, and fourteen feet high, on the ground where the court-house now stands, and in which the scaffold for Harper's execution was erected. It was in form like that used for the execution of McDonnell, and the weight used was 325 pounds of lead and shot. At eight minutes past eleven the noose was adjusted and the rope cut, and in sixteen minutes he was found to be dead. His body was taken in charge by A. G. Smith, editor of the "Republican," and by him sent by express to Harper's father, at Effingham, in this state, at Harper's request.

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Yours truly,  
C. F. McNeill.



## PART II.

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# TOWNSHIP HISTORY.

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### MIDDLEPORT AND BELMONT TOWNSHIPS.

BY HON. C. F. McNEILL.

The writer of this sketch desires the reader to bear in mind that the limits of this work, the want of time and press of business of the writer, will not permit an extended and complete history of the localities allotted to him, and he can therefore furnish only a chronological skeleton which must be filled up by the imagination of the reader, or by some writer who may follow hereafter, and who may have more leisure and a broader field in which to display a talent for such work.

The town of Middleport, as at present organized, embraces the territory covered by town 27 north, range 12 west of the 2d principal meridian; and the town of Belmont covers town 26 north, range 12 west of the 2d principal meridian, Iroquois county, Illinois.

The general geological features of these towns vary but little from that of the county elsewhere noted in this work, and to which the reader is referred. The Iroquois river enters the town of Middleport from the east, at the northeast corner of section 25, and leaves it near the northwest corner of section 30, meandering tortuously through the town. Sugar creek enters the town of Belmont from the south, near the southwest corner of section 32, and after pursuing a serpentine course through that town, forms a junction with the Iroquois river, near southwest corner of the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 31, T. 27 N., R. 12 W., and southwest corner of the plat of the village of Middleport. There are broad belts, principally of oak timber, along these streams, and the northern part of the town of Middleport is interspersed with groves. The soil of Belmont is good, and so also the southern and eastern portions of Middleport, but the northern and western portions not of first quality. Both towns are entirely embraced in the glacial channel, or valley, elsewhere noticed, filled with the glacial drift, rest-

ing upon the Niagara limestone formation, and therefore not underlaid with coal, but with that which is much more valuable, pure water, which can be obtained through artesian wells anywhere in these towns.

The first white settlers of this locality found the timber and groves clear of undergrowth, set with grass and presenting a park-like appearance. The prairies and timber abounded in game, and the streams were well stocked with fish.

That this locality was a favorite resort of the aborigines of the country we have evidence, the most ancient of which is that left by the "Mound Builders." There is an Indian mound about thirty feet in diameter on the Ezekiel Hutchinson Farm, and near the N.E. corner of the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 31, T. 27 N., R. 12 W., and in the orchard on said farm. There is also a mound of about the same dimension on the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 20, T. 26 N., R. 12 W., now owned by William Pentzer, and on the west side of Sugar creek and near Woodland. These mounds, with those found on John Lane's farm, near Milford, and also one or two on the state line, south and near the Iroquois river, and the large number strung along the east bank of the Iroquois river, between Plato and the mouth of Pike creek, as noted in the general history of the county, are all the mounds, so far as the writer has been able to learn, that are found in the county. There is an Indian burying-ground on the north bluff of the Iroquois river and near a large spring, in the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 29, T. 27 N., R. 12 W., now owned by the writer, and about one mile north of Watseka. This was also the site of a Pottawatomie village, within the recollection of the "oldest inhabitant." Many stone implements and arrow-heads have been found on the site of this village, and about the mounds mentioned; a fine specimen of a hatchet being now in the possession of Mr. H. O. Van Meter, who resides east of the river, near Plato. Indian burying-grounds always indicate the sites of Indian villages, as it has been the Indian custom to locate them at their villages. Their maize patches, or "squaw-fields," were also located at their villages. That it may be the better understood what constituted an Indian village, at least in this locality, we here give a description of them as furnished by Col. Gurdon S. Hubbard, in which he says: "The villages were none of them permanent, and were moved from place to place to suit the convenience of the inhabitants. Sometimes a village would not exist in the same location more than a year, when the Indians would move the wigwams and all to another point, the wigwams being built of poles set in a circular form, meeting in a common center at the top, and being covered with skins could be almost as easily moved as a large military tent."

As there has been some controversy as to whether or not Sugar creek and Spring creek had Indian names, the writer has interviewed both Col. Hubbard and Mr. Noel Le Vasseur upon that point, and both concur in the statement that neither of those streams had an Indian name. But, on the contrary, M. B. Beaubien, of Silver lake, Kansas, chief of the Pottawatomies, in answer to an inquiry made by Col. M. H. Peters, of the "Iroquois County Times," upon this point, writes him that: "Sugar creek, in Pottawatomie, is Cis-paw-co-to-con," and that "Sepa is river or creek." Yet, it may be that the chief intended only by this to give the translation or rendering of the English name into the Pottawatomie tongue, as it would be very strange if Hubbard and Vasseur should both be in error on this point, after their long residence among the Indians on these streams. It is therefore probable that none of the streams in this locality had Indian names, except the Iroquois river, the name "Iroquois" being derived from the Indians of that name, and who frequently raided this locality, as will be seen by reference to another part of this work.

#### FIRST EXPLORATION.

It is not known by whom this locality was first explored. A copy, now in the hands of Mr. M. H. Messer, of Onarga, in this county, of a part of a map made in 1684, from records and maps kept by La Salle and others, of the country they had explored, shows the Iroquois river correctly delineated as far south as Watseka, where the turn is made from the east. In answer to an inquiry made by the writer of Col. Hubbard, he says that he has no knowledge, from Indian tradition or otherwise, that any white man visited or located in this region before he came; but he thinks it very likely, as when the French controlled the fur trade of the West, Chabarre and others had trading-posts all over this country. On the point between Woodland and Sugar creek, on N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 29, T. 26 N., R. 12 W., is evidence of an ancient clearing and habitation, and of which the oldest "settler" can tell us nothing, and near by, from the site occupied by the creamery owned by Hon. Samuel Williams, a sugar tree was removed, which was found to have been hacked or cut with an ax by some one, as evidenced by the growths covering the cut, about 100 years ago. An ounce ball was also taken from a tree cut near the mouth of Spring creek, last fall, by employes of Mr. Henry A. Butzow, our county clerk, covered by the growths of a century. These traces may possibly have been left by Indians, but it is more probable that they are evidences of occupation by whites.

In the winter of 1821-2, the American Fur Company (John Jacob



Astor & Co.), having learned through their agents at Mackinaw, from the representations of a chief of the Pottawatomies; who had visited that point, of the great wealth of furs on the Kankakee and Iroquois rivers, dispatched Gurdon S. Hubbard, who was then in their employ, to these rivers, for the purpose of opening up trade with the Pottawatomies. Noel Le Vasseur was then in Hubbard's employ and accompanied him. They came with presents and Indian goods in a boat, by way of the west coast of lake Michigan, the Chicago and DesPlaines rivers, ascended the Kankakee and Iroquois rivers and landed at the Pottawatomie village, heretofore mentioned, on what is now the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 29, T. 27 N., R. 12 W. Here they were kindly received and well treated, and after spending some time in distributing their gifts among the Indians, cementing their friendships and learning the Pottawatomie tongue, they built a trading-house and erected a fur press, just above and near the mouth of Sugar creek, on the south bank of the Iroquois river. The site occupied by this trading-post is covered by block 52 in Middleport, and is now owned by Mrs. Catherine Peachen. The remains of this trading-house and fur press were still visible when the writer first came to Middleport, in 1853, and for some time after. They remained at this post about three years, as will be seen hereafter, and then abandoned it and established a new post at "Buncombe," now known as Concord, in this county. The Pottawatomie chiefs with whom Hubbard and Vasseur formed intimate relations here, were Tamin (strawberry), Shemargar (soldier), Raquitor (lawyer), and Washkuk. The territory east of Spring creek was occupied by the Pottawatomies.

— There was a Kickapoo village at Oliver's Grove, occupied by a detached band, whose chief was Black Hawk, but who were under the immediate leadership of Kanakuk. Hubbard secured the trade of this band, as well as that of the Pottawatomies. There were no white settlements nearer than the Wabash on the south, and Chicago on the north. The government Indian agencies were at Logansport, Indiana, and Chicago, Illinois.

In regard to his location in Illinois as an Indian trader, Col. Gurdon S. Hubbard, in a letter to B. F. Shankland, Esq., dated October 21, 1878, says: "The winter of 1821 and 1822 I was an Indian trader, located on the Iroquois river below 'Bunkum,' reaching that point from Mackinaw, in a small batteau (boat) of about ten tons burthen, coasting lake Michigan, drawing it overland from Chicago river to the DesPlaines, descending it and ascending the Kankakee and Iroquois rivers. From my trading-house I made frequent excursions to the Indian hunting-grounds as far south as the Little Wabash, using Indian pack-horses, which was the commencement of my *trail*. I was then

in the employ of the American Fur Company (John Jacob Astor & Co.), having engaged my services to them in the spring of 1818, for a term of five years, on a salary of \$120 per annum. The fall of 1825, not liking the location I built a new post about a half mile north of the town of 'Bunkum,' being then free to exercise my own discretion. I left my boats at Chicago and bought Indian horses to convey my goods, now largely increased. From there by a new trail, with loaded pack-horses, I struck at Sugar creek, at or near Watseka, the trail—or, as you call it, 'trace'—intersecting there the one I had before used. That fall I established quite a number of trading-posts south, and one north of Iroquois, making the latter my headquarters, visiting, as occasion required, my posts. At the Iroquois I opened a farm which I preëmpted, so that by the inclosing and cultivating over eighty acres, with a nice hewed log farm house near my trading-post, I was the first to cultivate in Iroquois county, and also in Cook county, except Mr. Kinzie and Mr. Clayton, who at that time had small patches, about twenty acres each, in the present limits of Chicago. Mr. Baxter Allen was my farmer, and who, after the first year, got married in Indiana, his wife being the first white woman, I think, in the territory now embraced in your county. I continued my Indian trade south of Danville up to 1832, when I withdrew, still continuing to keep an assortment of Indian goods, but mostly for whites, at Danville and trading-post at Iroquois, withdrawing from both places wholly in 1834, so that my entire business was at Chicago."

When Col. Hubbard came among the Indians on the Iroquois, he soon saw the necessity, as a matter of protection and safety, to form more intimate relations with them than that of mere trade, and therefore, in the course of time, married—according to the Indian custom—an Indian woman by the name of "*Watch-e-kee*," who was the *niece* of the Pottawatomie chief, Tamin, whose village was then on the present site of Concord ("Buncombe"). In answer to an inquiry made by the writer as to this matter, Col. Hubbard says: "I have no wish to deny the fact of her being my wife, given me by her uncle (the chief) when she was about ten, in the place of his own grown daughter whom he presented to me, and whom I declined. This little girl was to take her place, and was, under my pledge to make her my wife, brought to me by her mother at the age of fourteen or fifteen. She bore me a daughter who died at about eight months old. I lived with this Indian woman about two years in harmony. Our separation was by mutual agreement, in perfect friendship, and because I was about to abandon the Indian trade, and of course my connection with her tribe. Both thought each other's happiness would be promoted by

separation, as it doubtless was." The names of the father and mother of *Watch-e-kee*, or "Watseka," as she was called by the whites, appears to have been unknown to both Hubbard and Vasseur, as they so state to the writer. Watseka was born at the Indian village at the site of "Buncombe," about the year 1810. She is said to have been a handsome, intelligent and superior Indian woman. After her separation from Col. Hubbard, according to the Indian custom, and his retiring from "Buncombe," she, in 1828, married Noel Le Vasseur, who had



COL. GURDON S. HUBBARD.

been left in charge of the post. Her tribe, except a remnant, were removed west after the treaty of October, 1833, and she and Vasseur then removed to Bourbonnais Grove, on the Kankakee river. She bore him several children, some of whom are still living in Kansas. She went west in 1837 with the remnant of her tribe, and located near Council Bluffs, and there married a Frenchman by the name of Bergeron. When she went west Mr. Vasseur took her in a carriage as far as the Mississippi river, and it is said made ample provision for her, and that she was in comfortable circumstances until her death. About the year 1863 she returned on a visit to Mr. Vasseur, at Bourbonnais Grove, and from there she plodded her weary way afoot and alone to the scenes of her childhood, and visited the graves of her kindred and tribe, near



Middleport and "Buncombe." Sadly she left, as the last Pottawatomie to set foot upon the soil of Iroquois county, and returned to Kansas, and about the year 1878, in the Pottawatomie Reservation in Kansas, passed to "the happy hunting-grounds." Noel Le Vasseur died at his residence in Bourbonnais Grove, on Friday night, December 15, 1879. Col. Gurdon S. Hubbard is still living, at the ripe old age of nearly eighty years, at 243 White street, Chicago, highly honored and respected by all who know him.

We have devoted this much space to "Watseka" for the reason that the city of Watseka has been named for *her*, and as her name will therefore be perpetuated in history, it becomes a matter of interest to have her biography. In the "Historic Notes of the Northwest," by Mr. Beckwith, at page 114 of this work, it is stated that there was an Indian tradition that the custom of perpetuating the name of "Watseka" originated in a conflict between the Iroquois and Illinois tribes of Indians, which took place on the Iroquois river, a few miles below Middleport, about two hundred years ago. As the *heroine* of this conflict belonged to the Illinois tribe, and the conflict must have occurred, if at all, at least one hundred years before the Pottawatomies occupied this territory, and as the last named tribe and the Illinois were always inveterate enemies, the Pottawatomies could have had no desire to perpetuate a remembrance of this conflict. The "tradition," therefore, becomes mythical, and is evidently more poetic than truthful. Mr. Noel Le Vasseur, in an interview with him before his death, informed the writer that there was no significance whatever in the name of "*Watseka*."

#### FIRST SETTLEMENTS IN BELMONT.

The first emigrants to T. 26 N., R. 12 W. were John S. Moore and wife (Nancy) and their family: Jesse Moore and wife, Foster Moore, William S., Foreman, John B., Aaron, Joseph, Rebecca, Catharine, Mary and Nancy Moore. They all came from Adams county, Ohio,—some in the spring and others in the fall of 1831,—and located at what has since been known as "Moore's Point," on lands in sections 14 and 15. Mary married John Crowl, about the year 1837, and located near "Buncombe." She died a few years ago, leaving five children. Mr. Crowl is still living, and resides on his old homestead. Rebecca married, January 1, 1833, Hon. Micajah Stanley, and they located near Milford, but afterward, in 1835, removed to the place where they now reside, in the limits of Watseka. Catharine married Samuel Fleming, and they located on his farm in section 30, where he died a few years ago. She is still living. Nancy married Reuben Carman, and settled in the northern part of the town. The sons all

married and located in the neighborhood. Foreman and John B. have since died and left families in the town. John S. Moore died July 10, 1843, and afterward his wife resided with her daughter, Mrs. Stanley, until July 5, 1853, when she died while on a visit to her daughter, Mrs. Crowl. The Moore family were Methodists, and John S., in 1835, built a log church, 25×30 feet, with clap-board roof and puncheon floor, and furnished with hewed bench-seats, for the use of the church. This was the first church in the county, and Moore's was the preacher's home. What ministers occupied this church the writer has not been able to learn.

Alexander Wilson came in 1833, and laid a claim on land in section 10; sold out to Aaron H. James, and June 4, 1834, entered the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 5, and built a hewed log house on it and removed to it. A few years after he established a tannery, and resided on the place until he sold out to Alfred Beckett, November 7, 1847. Beckett came from Perrysville, Indiana, and with him Benjamin F. Raney, who located on part of section 4. Raney and Beckett both died several years ago. Beckett sold to Hon. John Chamberlain, July 28, 1856. This land is in the present limits of Watseka. When Wilson sold out he removed to the west side of Sugar creek, where he still resides.

John Hudson, Sr., and family came from Kent county, Delaware, July 4, 1834. His family consisted of his wife (Mary) and children: John, Jonathan, Henry and Deborah. Deborah afterward married James Longshore. John, Sr., died November 12, 1834, and his widow, March 13, 1835. They were both buried in the cemetery on the land where they located, in section 4, and which had been donated by them for burial purposes. They were each about sixty years of age when they died. Jonathan was accidentally drowned in Sugar creek, June 6, 1835. John was married to Sarah Longshore, and Deborah to James Longshore, both the same day, in December, 1835. They were married by Alexander Wilson, who was then a justice of the peace. John, Henry and Deborah are still living west of the creek. Mrs. Sarah Longshore, James, William and wife, and Mahlon Longshore came in the spring of 1835, and all settled west of the creek. John Longshore came two or three years after. The Longshores all died several years ago. They built the first house on the west side of the creek. Jesse Oppy and Samuel Oppy came in 1835. Jesse located on lands in section 23, where he and family still reside. Samuel Oppy removed to Iowa in 1866. Henry Barna, known also by the name of Barnhouse (German), with his two sons, located on the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 20, in 1832 or 1833. He was a carpenter by trade, and made some of the furniture first used in the offices of the county. He sold his land to Robert L. Williams, in 1835, and left.

John Strean located on N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 22 in 1834 or 1835. He married Jane Vennum, daughter of Col. Thomas Vennum. They are both still living, but have no children. They are highly respected people. Aaron Hoel and family came from Ohio in 1834, and settled on W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 27. He died several years ago, and the family are scattered. Jeremiah Hoel came in 1837. He was a brick-maker, and burned the brick for the old court-house. He and family removed several years ago to Union county, Illinois. John Wamsley and family came from Adams county, Ohio, in 1834, and located on S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 28. He sold out in 1836 and returned to Ohio. Eli Murray and family came from Ohio in 1834, and located on W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 29. He died many years ago. Lemuel and William John and families located in section 32 in 1834. Lemuel has been dead some years. Hozea T., Elijah and Thomas Kendall came from Indiana in 1835, all locating in sections 10, 11 and 14. All died several years ago. Peter Hardenbrook and family came from Ohio in 1835; settled on E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 29, and died many years ago. Samuel Keene came from Indiana in 1836; located on S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 5. He followed hunting and trapping, as well as farming. He and family still reside on the premises. Oliver Smith and family, from Ohio, located on lands in section 22 in 1836. He died there many years ago.

Samuel B. Swin and his sons, Samuel and Isaac, came from Adams county, Ohio, in 1837, and settled on lands in section 3. Samuel B. long since died. Samuel now resides at Onarga. Isaac removed to Iowa. Charles and John Shields and families came about the same time as did the Longshores, and settled in the same locality. They are both dead. Henry Fortig (German) came from Ohio about 1836, and located on the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Lot 2, N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 4. He lived with his widowed mother until she died, a few years after. His brothers, John and George, also lived with them. They all removed west many years ago. John Paul came from Pennsylvania in 1839. He married one of Jonathan Wright's daughters, and they settled on the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 26. Several years ago he sold out and removed to Watseka and engaged in buying and selling grain. A few years ago he removed to Denver, Colorado, where he and family now reside. William, Anstin, John and Joshua Sherrill, settled near Lister's Point in 1847. They are all dead, but some of their descendants still reside in the neighborhood. Benjamin Raymond came about the same time. He married a Sherrill. Reuben, Aaron and Sarah Carman, with their father, came about 1850. Their father died here two or three years after. The others settled on lands in section 3. Sarah married Henry Fortig, and they, with Aaron, went west. Reuben married Nancy Moore, and a few



years ago sold his farm to A. J. Gillfillan, removed to Fairbury, Illinois, and from thence to Missouri.

David McClanahan came from Tennessee about 1841, married Alex. Wilson's daughter (Mary) and located west of the creek. They removed to Kansas in 1864 or 1865. Abram Troxell and family came in 1840, and located west of the creek. He died several years ago. His two sons, John and Christopher, were both drowned in the creek in 1840, by accident, while getting cattle out during a freshet. Alfred C. Johnson came from Ohio several years ago, married here, and settled on lands in section 19, west of the creek, where he and family now reside. David McGill came to Belmont when a youth, in 1838, and was for several years in the employ of John Strean. He married in that town, and by energy and economy has acquired a large amount of lands and property. He is vice-president of the First National Bank of Watseka, and now resides in that city.

Hon. Samuel Williams, with his father, Thomas Williams, and mother (Elizabeth) and brothers and sisters, John, Melissa, William, Josiah, Susan, Mary and Harvey, came to the county in 1845. He located in Belmont in 1847. His father died there in 1855. He is highly respected and a man of prominence in the county; has been judge of the county court, and is now the president of the First National Bank of Watseka, but still resides in Belmont. He was married in 1849 to Catherine Body, of that town. He was formerly from Adams county, Ohio.

The first child born within the limits of Belmont, was Marion Francis Moore, son of Jesse and Leticia Moore, born in the summer of 1831. The first marriage was Hon. Micajah Stanley to Rebecca Moore; and the first death was John Hudson, Sr., who died November 12, 1834.

The first settlers of Belmont had to endure the hardships usual to a new country. John Strean had a little store on Coon creek, where he sold a few necessities brought by teams from La Fayette, Indiana, and Chicago, Illinois, and which places were the nearest markets. The post-office was at Driftwood, northwest of Milford, on Sugar creek, where a "semi-occasional" mail was received on the mail route from Joliet to Danville. The nearest mills (except a "corn-cracker" run by horse-power, by William Pickrell, where Milford now is), were on Pine creek and the Big Shawnee, in Indiana, and at Wilmington, on the Kankakee river, about fifty miles away, and the nearest towns and physicians were at Williamsport and La Fayette.

The first schools taught in the town, so far as the writer has been able to learn, were by Benjamin Raymond, on the east side of the

town, and by Mahlon Boyd on the west side of Sugar creek. The first preaching was by Revs. Mr. Springer and Hooper Crews, of the M. E. church, and by John Hoobler and the Kenoyers of the United Brethren church.

The town was first organized embracing town 26 north, ranges 12 and 13 west. Town 26 north, range 13 west, was organized as the town of Crescent a few years ago. The Chicago & Eastern Illinois railroad runs through this town, on which, and in the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 20 and N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 29, the village of

#### WOODLAND

Is located. This village was laid off by Russell Search, Samuel Williams and John L. Donovan, April 17, 1876. It is a station on the



WILLIAMS & SONS' CREAMERY.

railroad, four miles south of Watseka; has a post-office, lumber yard, steam mill, several stores, etc., and does considerable trade. At this village is located one of the best regulated and constructed creameries in the country, owned by Hon. Samuel Williams & Sons.

The Poor Farm of the county is located principally in section 3, and was purchased of Henry B. Coberly, January 31, 1857. This town has two iron bridges across Sugar creek, one near the residence of Samuel Keene, built a few years ago, costing \$6,500, and one lately built at Woodland, costing \$3,200. Part of the corporate limits of the city of Watseka is within the town.

James T. Phenix, a colored man, who resided on a farm he had purchased of David McGill, in section 26, committed suicide by drowning himself in Coon creek, on the night of Wednesday, February 4, 1880. He had been defeated on Monday before, by McGill, in a suit for

forcible detainer of the premises, and believing that he had been mis-used in the matter, he became insane and committed the deed. He left a wife and four small children in destitute circumstances.

## OFFICERS OF BELMONT.

YEAR.	SUPERVISOR.	CLERK.	ASSESSOR.	COLLECTOR.
1856	Samuel Williams..	Elihu Moore.....	David McGill .....	Wm. Williams.
1857	Same.....	E. H. Moore .....	Daniel Parker.....	David McGill.
1858	Same.....	Same.....	John Paul.....	Same.
1859	John Hudson.....	Same.....	Same.....	H. L. Roll.
1860	John Paul.....	A. C. Johnson.....	David McGill.....	Same.
1861	Same.....	E. H. Moore .....	S. W. Montgomery.	Henry Smith.
1862	Same.....	Same.....	A. C. Johnson.....	H. L. Roll.
1863	Same.....	Same.....	Same.....	Same.
1864	Same.....	Same.....	Same.....	William Warren.
1865	F. Blades.....	Stanford Hoel.....	Same.....	Same.
1866	Samuel Williams..	David John .....	Same.....	Same.
1867	Same.....	Same.....	Same.....	Same.
1868	David McGill.....	J. F. Good.....	Same.....	Same.
1869	Same.....	Same.....	Same.....	S. W. Warren.
1870	Samuel Williams..	J. L. McConnell, Jr.	J. G. Wagner.....	M. Hogle.
1871	C. Secrest.....	G. W. Garrison .....	Same.....	J. W. Carr.
1872	Same.....	G. W. Andrews .....	Abner Frame.....	James Cauvins.
1873	S. W. Montgomery	W. S. Browne.....	A. D. Frame.....	G. W. Andrews.
1874	C. Secrest.....	Same.....	Same.....	Same.
1875	Same.....	J. B. Moore.....	Same.....	S. W. Warren.
1876	Same.....	Same.....	Same.....	G. H. Featherling.
1877	J. L. Donovan.....	Same.....	S. W. Warren.....	Same.
1878	Same.....	Same.....	Henry Tate.....	Same.
1879	Same.....	Same.....	Same.....	Justus Smith.
1880	Same.....	Same.....	A. D. Frame.....	Same.

March 10, 1865, David McGill was appointed to fill vacancy in the office of town clerk, occasioned by the removal of E. H. Moore from the town. November 16, 1864, John Strean was appointed supervisor to fill vacancy occasioned by the removal of John Paul from the town. November 1, 1870, William Warren was appointed town clerk to fill vacancy occasioned by the removal of J. L. McConnell. December 30, 1876, John L. Donovan was appointed supervisor to fill vacancy occasioned by the resignation of C. Secrest. July 6, 1877, William Warren was appointed assessor to fill vacancy occasioned by the assessor elect having been declared insane.

## FIRST SETTLEMENT IN THE TOWN OF MIDDLEPORT.

David and Oliver Bookless came from Ohio in 1833 or 1834, and located on lands in section 27, north of the river. David died many years ago. Oliver still lives near "Lister's Point."

Hon. Micajah Stanley built a log house on the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 32 in March, 1835, and in April following moved into it from near Milford, where he had previously resided. He improved his farm and in 1846



built the finest barn then in the county. His premises are now in the city of Watseka, of the most of which he is the proprietor. His old residence has been replaced by a commodious and comfortable brick dwelling, where he and wife and some of his children now reside. He is honored and respected by all.

James Crozzar came from Ohio in 1835. He married the widow of Hezekiah Eastburn, who lived near "Lister's Point," and built on the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 35, where he resided until his death. He died June 17, 1869, and his wife January 6, 1880. He bequeathed his home property to Richard Roberts, who now occupies it. Crozzar left no children.

Leander Hogle and family came from Coshocton county, Ohio, in 1836, and located on the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 28. He died March 7, 1853, leaving surviving him his widow (Elizabeth) and Michael, George W., Polly, John, Isaac and David, his children. His widow died about 1865, and his children Isaac and David several years before. Michael and John were several years engaged in selling goods at Middleport. George W. was a stock-trader. Michael was at one time sheriff of the county, and for several years the editor of the "Middleport Press," a justice of the peace, and prominent in the politics of the county. Michael, George W. and John now reside in Chicago. Polly is married to John Thompson, and resides in Coshocton county, Ohio.

John Lyman, Sr., and wife (Hannah) and daughter (Susan) came from Starke county, Ohio, and landed at Middleport in June, 1836. Daniel Rondebush and wife (Polly Lyman), William Lyman, Samuel Lyman and Jacob Lyman and families, and Matthias Shipman, who afterward married Susan Lyman, came with them from the same place. John Lyman, Sr., and Daniel Rondebush and families, located in Middleport. Jacob and family located on lands in section 30, and William and Samuel and families farther north. These were the first settlements in the town north of Middleport and the river. George Lyman, David Buck and John Lyman, Jr., and families, and Jonathan Lyman, came from same place about two years after. John, Jr., died in about one year, and Jonathan subsequently married his widow. George Lyman located in Belmont, and David Buck and Jonathan Lyman, north of the river. Daniel Lyman came about 1840, and also settled north of the river. John Lyman, Sr., died in 1840, and his wife about ten years later. Daniel Lyman died about 1870; Buck in 1874; and Shipman about a year ago. Jacob Lyman died about 1850. Samuel Platner also came with the Lymans, and when Rondebush died, two or three years after, Platner married his widow and located

on the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 29, north of the river. Jacob Snyder, Sr., and son-in-law, Jacob Rhodes, and sons, Jacob and John, came from Wayne county, Ohio, in the spring of 1837. Rhodes and family located on N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 33. He died several years ago, and his wife later. John Snyder located on S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 33, in 1838. John died several years ago, and Jacob in Peoria about two or three months ago. Jacob Shultz came about 1837, and settled north of the river. Joseph Egbert and wife (Mary) and children, Elizabeth, James, Susan, Samuel, Hugh, Adrian and George, came from Akron, Ohio, November 15, 1840. The coming winter he built a dwelling house, saw-mill and "corn-cracker" on the river, in W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 32. No lumber was to be had nearer than Chicago or the Wabash river; he therefore sawed all the necessary lumber for these improvements with a whipsaw. George and his mother died in 1841, Hugh and Samuel in 1845. A Mr. Davis built a distillery near the mill, in which an old-fashioned copper still was used, which was purchased by Mr. Egbert in 1846, and was run about four years. The mill was run until 1856, and then abandoned. Elizabeth married Josiah Williams in April, 1849. Susan married a Mr. Pearsoll, and soon after died. Joseph Egbert died September 27, 1854. Josiah Williams and wife, and James and Adrian Egbert reside in Watseka. In 1836 Reuben Lister, Nathan Foster and Joshua Sherrill, made locations in sections 35 and 36; and Mons K. Olland, Erick G. Medborn and Niels T. Bouge, in section 22; and Charles Holseclaw in section 23. David, Frederick and Benjamin Leatherman, William Jerman, Jones Green, John Merely, Mason Vermillion, A. J. Galaspie, Jason Bull, Charles F. Tyler, John Mellinger and Daniel Davis settled in the northeastern part of the town at a later day.

William McCollock entered the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 25, December 25, 1832. This was the first purchase of the government made in the town. This covered the crossing of the river on the Vincennes and Chicago state road. Isaac Contright, who then resided near "Buncombe," afterward purchased this land, and in 1839 or 1840 built a saw-mill and grist-mill on it. Cyrus Clapp came from near Attica, Indiana, lived in a "shanty" near the mill, and boarded the hands during its construction. George Courtright went there in 1843 and resided in the log house formerly occupied by Clapp, until he built a house which he occupied as a hotel several years, then sold it to Sanford Claggett, and he to William S. Torbett soon after. William Steerman and family, Richard and William Roberts, all came to the place from Indiana in 1848, and engaged in blacksmithing. Claggett and Woods sold goods there from about 1850 to 1854, when Claggett

removed to Lexington, Illinois. Joseph Thomas came there with his family in 1848 and bought an interest in the mill. He was also justice of the peace, and from 1852 to 1856, a member of the legislature. His wife died there. He died at Onarga in 1858. Isaac Courtright located there with his family in 1843, and his wife died about one year after. A few years after he married Mrs. Ruth Kay, mother of Wilson S., Joseph W. and James W. Kay. They both died of cholera about the same time, in October, 1854. The mill property was conveyed to George West, July 25, 1848. In 1854 he built a new mill, on north side of the river. This he sold to John Steele and Edward Collins, in 1865, who removed it to Sheldon. He sold the mill site to John Shankland, September 2, 1867, who built a saw-mill upon it, and sold out to Edward W. Bishop, January 21, 1868, who still owns it. This place was formerly known as "Courtright's Mills," but for many years past as "Texas," but how it obtained this name the writer has been unable to learn.

Mr. George King, father of Mrs. Nancy Blades (wife of Hon. Franklin Blades), Capt. George E. King, and Charles N. King, with his wife (Delilah) and family, came to the town in 1850, and located on a large farm he owned in sections 34 and 35, where he remained until 1854, when he removed to Middleport and engaged in selling goods, which business he followed about four years and then sold his stock-in-trade. In 1861 and also in 1863 he was elected county treasurer. He died September 11, 1870, at the age of about sixty-six years. He was the son of William and Hannah King, and born in Chillicothe, Ohio, in 1804. Was a farmer by trade and engaged in that business both at Clarksville and Columbus, Ohio, for several years. In 1836 he removed to Tippecanoe county, Indiana, where he was engaged in farming, and also packing pork until 1840, when he removed to Williamsport, Indiana, where he engaged in selling goods and packing until 1850, when he removed to Iroquois county, as before stated. He was a man of integrity, honesty, and unbounded liberality, and honored and respected by all who knew him. The farm he formerly owned in the town is now owned and occupied by Stephen Cissna.

The town of Middleport was first organized embracing townships 27 N., ranges 12 and 13 W. T. 27 N., R. 13 W. was organized into a separate town in 1858. Middleport has three iron bridges, one across the creek, one across the river at Middleport, and one across the river about two miles above, in section 27. The first named cost about \$4,800; the second \$6,000; and the last \$7,000. The first is a truss, and the other two arched bridges. The Chicago & Eastern Illinois railroad, and the Toledo, Peoria & Warsaw railroad run



through the town, crossing at Watseka. The most of the city of Watseka, and also "Old Middleport," are within the town.

## OFFICERS OF MIDDLEPORT.

YEAR.	SUPERVISOR.	CLERK.	ASSESSOR.	COLLECTOR.
1856	Alvin Fiddler.....	Alfred Fletcher....	Daniel Lyman.....	Giles E. Chapin.
1857	George West.....	Wm. B. White.....	E. Brandenburg...	W. S. Kay.
1858	James Fletcher...	Theodore Troup...	Same.....	Wm. B. White.
1859	Same.....	Wm. B. White.....	Same.....	Theodore Troup.
1860	D. B. Gardner.....	J. C. Steely.....	Same.....	Wm. B. White.
1861	C. R. Brown.....	George Warren....	J. A. Graham.....	Wm. Warren.
1862	Daniel Fry.....	L. P. Mead.....	Wm. Brown.....	J. L. Horton.
1863	Wm. Frees.....	S. A. Washington.	James Egbert.....	E. Brandenburg.
1864	C. F. McNeill.....	W. S. Kay.....	E. Brandenburg...	Wm. Jerman.
1865	Same.....	Same.....	Wm. Jerman.....	Paul Reeves.
1866	Same.....	H. T. Skeels.....	R. K. McIntyre....	Daniel Parker.
1867	Josiah Williams..	Same.....	J. A. Graham.....	Wm. Williams.
1868	Jas. P. Martin....	Same.....	Same.....	L. M. Hogle.
1869	F. J. Sears.....	S. C. Munhall.....	Same.....	Same.
1870	E. B. Sleeth.....	Same.....	Same.....	Same.
1871	Stephen Cissna....	Same.....	Same.....	Henry H. Shultz.
1872	R. K. McIntyre....	Same.....	(No Record).....	(No Record).
1873	Same.....	Same.....	(No Record).....	J. A. Graham.
1874	Geo. W. Parker....	Wm. I. Jones.....	H. O. Henry.....	(No Record).
1875	Daniel Parker....	H. H. Alter.....	James Egbert.....	L. M. Hogle.
1876	Same.....	Same.....	Same.....	Adrian Egbert.
1877	Same.....	Same.....	Same.....	Chas. Franklin.
1878	C. G. Culver.....	Same.....	J. A. Graham.....	Same.
1879	Daniel Fry.....	Same.....	Same.....	E. M. Amos.
1880	T. S. Arnold.....	Same.....	Same.....	Wm. Fisher.

January 14, 1858, W. S. Kay resigned as collector, and Henry C. Bryant was appointed in his place. November 21, 1861, James W. Kay was appointed town clerk to fill vacancy; 1871, H. H. Shultz, collector, resigned, and S. W. Warren was appointed to fill the vacancy. November 27, 1873, C. F. McNeill was appointed supervisor to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of R. K. McIntyre. January 16, 1877, A. B. Roff was appointed collector vice Adrian Egbert, who did not qualify. September 15, 1877, C. F. McNeill was appointed supervisor to fill vacancy occasioned by the death of Daniel Parker. January 16, 1879, A. L. Whitehall was appointed collector in place of Charles Franklin, who did not qualify. The following justices of the peace have been elected for the town: 1857, C. F. McNeill, William Brown and William F. Keady; 1858, William F. Keady; 1860, William Brooks and B. F. Barnum; 1861, Michael Hogle and James C. Steely; 1865, James C. Steely and A. B. Roff; 1866, Joseph L. Horton; 1869, James C. Steely and L. Armstrong; 1870, James C. Steely; 1872, C. F. McNeill; 1873, Andrew Rush; 1877, A. B. Roff and Peter C. Hoyt; and May 13, 1879, Harrison Garner was elected in place of A. B. Roff who resigned. At the town meeting in 1863 a vote was taken for or against township

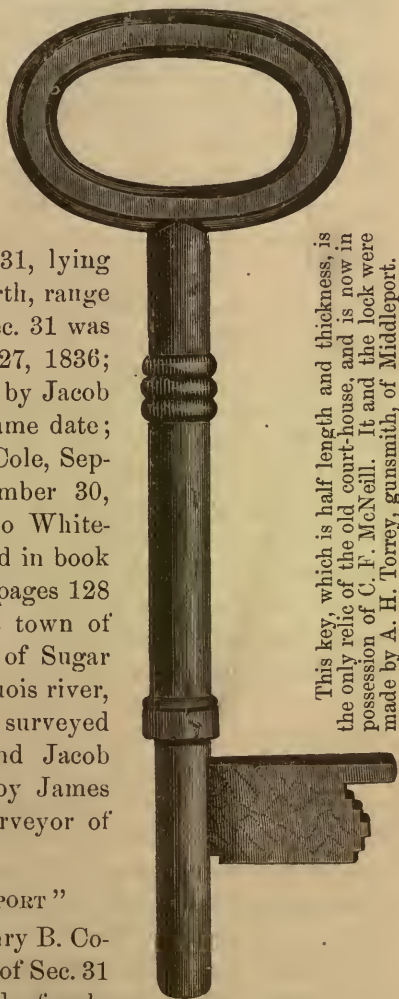
organization, which resulted in 642 votes being cast for, and 3 votes against it. A like vote was taken again in 1867, which resulted in 187 votes being cast for, and 85 votes against township organization. At a special town meeting, June 8, 1867, a vote was taken for and against \$15,000 aid to the Chicago, Danville & Vincennes railroad, which resulted in 233 votes being cast for, and 68 votes against it. The town bonds for this aid were issued February 20, 1871. The payment of these bonds has since been enjoined.

## MIDDLEPORT.

Middleport was laid off on the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 32, and that part of E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 31, lying east of the Iroquois river, in 27 north, range 12 west. The E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 31 was entered by Hugh Newell, August 27, 1836; and the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 32, by Jacob A. Whiteman and Hugh Newell, same date; and the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  by Austin Cole, September 21, 1836, who sold, September 30, 1836, the north half of this tract to Whiteman & Newell. The plat is recorded in book A of the deed records of the county, pages 128 and 129, as follows: "A map of the town of Middleport, situated at the mouth of Sugar creek, on southeast bank of the Iroquois river, Iroquois county, state of Illinois, surveyed at the request of Hugh Newell and Jacob A. Whiteman, in December, 1836, by James Smith, deputy for Jonas Smith, surveyor of Iroquois county, Illinois."

## "COBERLY'S ADDITION TO MIDDLEPORT"

Was laid off, March 15, 1848, by Henry B. Coberly, the owner of the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 31 (Robert Nilson, surveyor), comprised of only two blocks adjoining Middleport. The plat is recorded in book B, page 547. The first house built in Middleport was built by Daniel Rondebush, soon after he came, as before stated, on lot 5, block 32. This was a log house about sixteen feet square. The second was a double log cabin, built by John Lyman, Sr., on lot 8, block 27, which lot is now



This key, which is half length and thickness, is the only relic of the old court-house, and is now in possession of C. F. McNeill. It and the lock were made by A. H. Torrey, gunsmith, of Middleport.

owned by S. R. Hawks. The third was a double log house, built by William Shellenbarger, on lot 2, block 38, and on the bank of the river. The first school taught in the village was by Dr. John Harwood, in one end of this house, in the winter of 1840-1. This school was attended by one scholar from M. Stanley's family, three from Alex. Wilson's, four from John Findley's, three from Frazier's, two from Shipley's, four from Egbert's and two from Harwood's, making nineteen scholars. The fourth one was a log house built by Stephen Flesher, on lot 8, block 50, 16×18 feet, where the Wilson House now stands. He also had a blacksmith-shop on this lot and followed that trade. The fifth was a log house built by David Buck, 16×24 feet, on lot 5, block 31. The first court held in Middleport convened in this house in May, 1840. The house was afterward sold to Henry Troup, and finally fell to Mrs. Troup, who sold it a few years ago to a Mrs. Soucey, who moved it on a lot near the cemetery, in the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 32, where it can still be seen. All these houses were built in 1836 and 1837. In 1837 Henry Troup visited this county from Manchester, Starke county, Ohio, for the purpose of selecting a location, and engaged Hugh Newell to build him a house and storeroom in Middleport. He and family came August 10, 1838, with his father-in-law, John Little and family. When they came Troup's house was not completed, and they all had to camp under a large oak tree on the bank of the river, about six weeks. During this time Little built him a log house west of block 41, near where the mill now stands, and moved into it. In the meantime Troup's building on lot 7, block 41, was completed and he moved into that. In a short time his store building, 16×24 feet, just across the street, was also completed. The old oak tree under which they camped was precipitated into the river by a storm, April 23, 1853. The Troup dwelling was a two-story frame, and the first frame building in the place. It was used for about three years by Mr. Troup as a hotel, and until he built a dwelling-house on lot 1, block 42, in 1841, just north of his storeroom, and moved into it, and where his widow, Mary Ann Troup, still resides. The former house belonged to Hugh Newell, was subsequently sold to Winthrop Patterson, by him to George King and by him to the writer, who sold it to James Bowen, who removed it on lots 7 and 8, block 36, where it still stands and is used as a barn.

In 1839 Hugh Newell built a two-story frame building on the northeast corner of lot 5, block 41. The upper story of this building was used for a court-room and the lower story for county offices, until the school-house was built. The school-house, 20×30 feet, was erected on lots 3 and 4, block 37, in 1842, and in this court was held until the court-house was completed in 1847.



Dr. John Harwood and family came in 1840. He was the first physician to locate in the place. He built a frame residence on lot 1, block 34. This building is still standing, and is occupied by Joseph L. Horton and family. Jacob A. Whiteman came about the same time. He was probate justice, county treasurer and assessor. He was admitted to the bar in 1846. Samuel D. Younglove and family, Samuel Haviland and family, John Shipley and family, Jacob Frazier and family, John S. Findley and family, Benj. Brackney and family, and Alpha H. Torrey came soon after. Younglove and Shipley were blacksmiths, Haviland a tanner, and Torrey a gunsmith. Finley was elected justice of the peace, and Brackney, constable. Charles Gardner (attorney) and family came from New York. He was the first attorney to locate in the place. Van H. Higgins (now of Chicago) came from the Wabash in 1843. He taught school until 1845, and during the time he was admitted to the bar. He left in 1845. Henry Starr, brother to Judge Starr, and also an attorney, located here about 1844. He married Shipley's daughter in 1846, and removed to Morris, Illinois. George B. Joiner and wife came from Williamsport, Indiana, in June, 1845. He practiced law, taught school, and kept the post-office for Henry Troup, who was the first postmaster. His books show that at the ends of the following quarters his receipts in the post-office were: October 1, 1845, \$7.25; January 1, 1846, \$5.65, and January 1, 1849, \$13.81. A. B. Roff was appointed postmaster in 1849; C. R. Brown in 1852; Daniel B. Gardner in 1853; William F. Keady in 1857, and R. K. McIntyre in 1861, who held the office until it was vacated in 1868.

Garret Eoff occupied the Newell building vacated by Mr. Troup, in 1842, and kept hotel in it. Mrs. Gardner and sons (Farrand and Daniel B.) came in 1845, and her sons, Horace and Samuel S., came in 1846. Farrand was elected justice of the peace in 1846. Horace kept hotel in the building built by Newell for a court-house, and was succeeded by Hardin Graves in 1847, who was his brother-in-law, and who came with the Gardners. Garrett Eoff built a hotel on lot 5, block 39, in 1846 or 1847. It was burned down in 1848. This was the first fire in Middleport. It was immediately rebuilt by Eoff, and was afterward known as the "American House." About the same time Hardin Graves built a brick hotel on lots 7 and 8, block 50. A few years after he sold it to Dr. Nathaniel Wilson, who occupied it, and it has since been known as the "Wilson House," and is still standing, but has not been used as a hotel for many years. The American House was successively kept by Eoff, Adam Barr, Snyder & Lyman, William H. Ward, William Brooks, and John N. Urmston. A few years ago the building was demolished.

In 1851 Charles Sherman and Cyrus R. Brown built a steam saw-mill in the northern part of the town. At the raising of this mill, October 31, a Mr. Daniel Bailey was killed instantly by the falling of a heavy piece of timber. He left a family of wife and ten children. This mill was successively owned and run by Sherman & Brown, Wheeler & Torrey, Torrey, Harrison & Master, and Caldwell & Steely. It has not been run for several years, and was destroyed by fire last year, being owned at the time by Lazarus Steely.

Hugh Newell died in spring of 1841. He was circuit clerk and recorder. John Harwood succeeded him in that office. John F. Wagner succeeded Harwood in 1847, and became a citizen of the place. Jesse Bennett succeeded Wagner in the fall of 1849, and came from "Buncombe" to Middleport at that time. He built a residence on lots 3 and 4, block 33, the next year.

Don Alonzo Falkenbury came in 1842. He succeeded Jacob A. Whiteman, as probate justice, in 1845, and held that office until the county court was organized in 1849. He also taught school part of the time, and occasionally entertained the people by preaching, as a local Methodist minister. He left in 1852, and now resides in Arkansas. Asa B. Roff came in 1848. He engaged in boot and shoemaking. He was postmaster, as before stated, and also a justice of the peace for several years. He went to Texas in 1857, returned in 1858, resided a short time at Onarga, and built the first house in South Middleport. Dr. Richard Taliaferro came about the same time. He practiced medicine, and kept a small stock of drugs. Joseph Myers built the first brick business building in the place, on lot 1, block 49, in 1850. He afterward sold it to John Murdock, and he subsequently sold to Ezekiel Bowman. Mrs. Charlotte Hogle, widow of Henry W. Hogle, with her children, Henry W., Caroline, Leander M., Horatio A. and Austin W., came from Lower Canada, August 12, 1849. She died November 3, 1874, aged about sixty-nine years. Caroline married John Fagan in 1853, and died in 1855. Henry W. died on February 10, 1858, and Horatio A. died in Denver, Colo., November 13, 1879. Leander is now living in Middleport and Austin W. in Colorado. John Fagan, a saddler and harness-maker, came from the Wabash in 1849, and in 1851 built a brick store building on lot 5, block 39. James Fletcher, attorney, came in 1849, and S. A. Washington, also an attorney, came in 1850. They were brothers-in-law. Washington died in 1866, and his wife a few years ago. In 1851 E. Bowman, Jacob A. Whiteman, C. S. Stryker, Milton Scofield and S. A. Washington built residences. Daniel Parker came from Indiana in 1850. He sold goods in Middleport at different times; bought and

run a saw-mill on Sugar creek, near Middleport, a short time; was engaged in trading in stock and farming several years; and also sold goods in Watseka. For three years he was supervisor. He died in September, 1877, having been an energetic, useful and respected citizen.

In the summer of 1851, the members of the M. E. church at Middleport, A. B. Roff, M. Stanley, D. A. Falkenbury, Alex. Wilson, Samuel Williams, S. B. Swin and Foreman Moore, acting as trustees, built a church (frame), 36×45 feet, on lot 5, block 33. Daniel Parker was contractor. At the time this was built there was not another church building in the county. Before this the court-house had been used for church purposes. This church was also occupied as a court-house after the old court-house was burned, on the night of February 25, 1862, and until the county-seat was removed to Watseka. It was also used for several years for school purposes. It was sold in 1866, and removed to Watseka, where it has since been occupied as a livery stable, and is now owned by Lovett & Hayes.

S. S. and D. B. Gardner erected a large double two-story store building in 1851, which is still standing where erected; and, in 1854, George King and M. and J. Hogle built a large three-story store building on lots 6 and 7, block 41. This was, in 1857, purchased by the writer and William Frees, who removed it to Watseka in 1866. Frees afterward sold his half to Col. M. H. Peters, and the building is now known as the "McNeill & Peters Building." The upper story has been occupied as lodge rooms by the Masons and Odd-Fellows, and other secret societies, both in the old and new town.

William Frees, of Joliet, Ill., located in Middleport in the spring of 1854. He engaged in the hardware and tinping business, and his was the first establishment of the kind in the place. He remained in the business here until 1863, then removed to Watseka, and sold out in 1865, after which he and wife visited Germany, their native place, returned to this country and located, in the same business, at Ashton, Illinois, where he still resides. His wife died last fall. They were highly respected, sociable and charitable people.

Hon. John Chamberlain located here in the spring of 1855. He formerly resided at "Buncombe," to which place he had come from the state of New York. He died in December, 1866. (See his biography elsewhere.) Hon. Franklin Blades located at Middleport in 1852, and engaged in the practice of medicine. He was also for a time in partnership with Dr. Jesse Bennett in the drug business; became editor of the Republican in 1856; engaged in the practice of the law in 1858, and is now judge of the circuit court. He has been a



leading man in the county, and filled many honorable and prominent positions. Henry C. Bryant came from Williamsport, Indiana, in 1850 or 1851. He was for a time in partnership with Henry W. Hogle in carriage and wagon-making; afterward he engaged in the drug business, and for several years was a justice of the peace. He purchased a farm south of Middleport in 1858, and located on it. In 1854 Mr. George King came to this place from his farm, east of town, and engaged in the dry-goods business, as noticed in the history of the town, to which the reader is referred.

In the fall of 1853 the Presbyterian church of the place was organized by Rev. James Ferguson. Rev. C. H. Palmer came in 1855. The church building was built in 1861, and is still standing. Mr. Palmer died at Watseka, February 12, 1877, an exemplary christian, beloved and respected by all. His widow and family reside there.

Stephen G. Bovie, attorney, came to Middleport in 1853. He engaged in the practice of the law, and he and lady also taught the Middleport school for several years. From 1859 to 1863 he was master-in-chancery of the county, and in 1877 was the republican nominee for county judge. He resides at Watseka. The writer came to Middleport from his farm on lower Spring creek, April 1, 1857, where he resided until January 1, 1867, when he removed to Watseka, where he now resides. (See biography.)

In 1858 an addition was made to the court-house, and from that time until 1862, at which time the court-house was burned, many buildings were erected and improvements made, among which were the Presbyterian church and school-house, built in 1861. From the burning of the court-house the village declined, and after the removal of the county-seat to Watseka in April, 1865, most of the buildings worth removing were removed to the latter place in 1866 and 1867. The business men and firms of the place were: Merchants—Henry Troup, Hardin Graves, Goodenow & Brown, Sherman & Brown, Daniel Parker, John Youndt, Zeigler & Co., Sherman, Ayres & Co., Sherman & Patterson, King & Patterson, Winthrop Patterson, M. & J. Hogle, S. S. & D. B. Gardner, May & High, David Hoover, Joseph Rogers, John F. Wright, Joiner & Allen, Fowler & Fry, Bowman & White, Keady & Petts, John H. Empie, and a few others not remembered: Druggists—R. Taliaferro, Harwood & Fletcher, Bennett & Blades, H. C. Bryant, E. R. Sheffield, Wesley Bonfield, H. A. Tillinghast and Henry Tillinghast, H. A. Tillinghast & Co., and J. & M. V. B. Harwood: Physicians—John Harwood, Nathaniel Wilson, A. E. Mandeville, R. Taliaferro, Samuel Hueston, Jesse Bennett, Franklin Blades, A. N. Crawford, C. F. McNeill, E. R. Sheffield, Edward

Tupper, ——— Ryder, Joseph Brelsford, William H. Sommers and L. N. Pittwood. The physicians of the county organized a county medical society at Middleport, May 13, 1851. How long this organization was continued the writer is not able to state. The physicians of the county again organized, February 23, 1861, and this organization continued for several years, and in which much interest was manifested. The attorneys were Charles Gardner, Henry Starr, George B. Joiner, Van H. Higgins, Jacob A. Whiteman, James Fletcher, S. A. Washington, S. G. Bovie, A. B. Roff, Chester Kinney, Charles P. Kinney, C. F. McNeill, Franklin Blades, George H. Walser, Wilson S. Kay, Thomas Vennum and George E. King: Justices—Jacob A. Whiteman, John S. Finley, D. A. Falkenbury, Samuel M. Ayres, Henry C. Bryant, C. F. McNeill, William F. Keady, C. P. Kinney, James C. Steely and Andrew Rush.

Circuit courts at Middleport were attended by the following foreign attorneys: Pearson, Terry and Davis, of Danville; Bryant, Chandler and Gregory, of Williamsport, Indiana; Beard, Mace, Jones and others, of La Fayette, Indiana; Voorhees, of Covington, Indiana; Osgood, Fellows, Snapp, Randall and Fuller, of Joliet; Ives and others, of Bloomington; and Starr, Loring, Bonfield, Paddock and Moore, of Kankakee, and many others.

Schools were taught by the following persons: John Harwood, Adrian Egbert, Sr., D. A. Falkenburg, George B. Joiner, S. A. Washington, Rollá Pearsoll, W. S. Kay, Chauncey Finley, W. D. Robinson, F. Winkley, S. G. and Mrs. Bovie, George W. Rider, E. R. Akin, N. M. Bancroft, J. M. Mercer, and many others.

A county agricultural society was organized at Middleport, and fairs held there in 1855, 1856, 1857 and 1858.

Middleport was well located and once a prosperous and thriving village of about 800 inhabitants, and the memory of many pleasant associations is connected with it. The failure to secure the location of the Toledo, Peoria & Warsaw railway, from the lack of liberality and management on the part of its citizens, together with the consequent loss of the county seat, has been its ruin. We would like to say many more things about Middleport that might be of interest to the reader, but the fact that we are limited as to space forbids it.

Henry Troup was the leading spirit of the village and one of its most prominent citizens. He was born in Maryland, April 25, 1800, and died April 8, 1859. By prudence and economy he accumulated quite a fortune for his day, and it is truly said of him that "He was a faithful, industrious and correct business man, affable and courteous, domestic in his habits, and strictly moral and honorable." His widow

still resides in their old homestead in Middleport, respected as one of the oldest settlers of the place.

Middleport was incorporated as a village, April 16, 1859, by the election of John Hogle, Wilson S. Kay, B. F. Barnum, D. B. Gardner and Alfred H. Torrey as trustees. D. B. Gardner was elected president, and William H. Taylor was appointed clerk. The territory incorporated was one square mile, commencing at the S.E. corner of the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 30, T. 27 N., R. 12 W., and running east one mile and south one mile. This incorporation was maintained only until the loss of the county-seat, and Middleport has since been added to the corporation of Watseka.

A child was born to Mr. and Mrs. William Lyman soon after they came, in 1836. Mandaville Little was married to Lavina Frazier in 1838 or 1839. The wife of John Lyman, Jr., died in 1840. These constitute the first birth, marriage and death in Middleport.



WATSEKA COURT HOUSE.

WATSEKA.

Witseka was first known and designated by the name of "South Middleport," Hon. Micajah Stanley, proprietor. The village covered



the west  $123 \frac{2}{100}$  acres of the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 32, T. 27 N., R. 12 W. The W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of said S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  was entered by Mr. Stanley, April 28, 1835, and the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  September 3, 1836. The survey was made in October, 1859, by Moses H. Messer, county surveyor; plat made May 9, certified by the proprietor May 16, and recorded June 1, 1860. "Stanley's Addition to South Middleport," covering the balance of said S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , was surveyed by Messer September 12, 1861, certified by the proprietor September 17, and recorded October 1, 1861. At the suggestion of Mr. Stanley, Winthrop, Patterson and other old citizens, the board of supervisors of the county, at their September meeting in 1863, changed the name of "South Middleport" to "Watseka," in honor of the Indian woman of that name, heretofore referred to in this history; and by act of the general assembly, approved February 16, 1865, and in force from and after its passage, said order of said board so changing the name of said town, was defined and declared to embrace South Middleport and Stanley's addition thereto, as laid out and platted on the entire S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of said Sec. 32. The county-seat having been removed to Watseka, as thus defined, it will be seen that, *in law*, it covers only said S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  and not the whole of the city of Watseka.

Hon. John Chamberlain, April 4, 1860, by M. H. Messer, surveyor, laid off a tier of twenty-four lots on the north side of lot 2, N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 5, T. 26 N., R. 12 W., adjoining South Middleport, the plat of which was recorded May 11, 1860. On October 5, 1864, this plat (as to lots from 1 to 18 inclusive, and also lot 23), was vacated, and lots 18 and 23, corresponding with Third and Fourth streets, were dedicated as streets.

"Troup's Addition to Watseka," surveyed by E. W. Dodson, county surveyor, covering a large part of the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 32, was laid off by Theodore and Anna F. Troup, his wife, December 4, 1865, and plat recorded December 29, 1865.

"Roff and Doyle's Addition of Out-Lots to the town of Watseka," surveyed by M. H. Messer, was laid off by Asa B. Roff and Robert Doyle, covering the most of the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 32, July 12, 1866, and plat recorded July 13, 1866.

"Fairman's Addition to the town of Watseka," surveyed by M. H. Messer, on S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 5, T. 26 N., R. 12 W., was laid off by John F. Fairman, July 3, 1866, and plat recorded July 13, 1866.

"Charles Sherman's Out-Lots to Watseka," were surveyed and platted February 9, 1869, and plat recorded March 10, 1869. They cover the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 4, T. 26 N., R. 12 W.

"County Clerk's Plat of Belmont Addition to Watseka," covering the Sherman out-lots, and also the out-lots sold by Chamberlain, by

metes and bounds, east of Fourth street, was platted by John M. Burton, county surveyor, by order of A. Honeywell, county clerk, June 18, 1873, and recorded June 26, 1873.

"Chamberlain's Addition to the City of Watseka," covering nearly all of the north half of said Sec. 5, east of Sugar creek and west of Fourth street, was platted September 21, 1871, and plat recorded July 1, 1873.

"Stanley's Second Addition to Watseka," on S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , and S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 33, T. 27 N., R. 12 W., was surveyed by John M. Burton, county surveyor, April 14, 1873, and plat recorded April 23, 1873.

John Chamberlain and James W. Lawrence laid off the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of said Sec. 32, into out-lots, May 2, 1860, and the plat of which was recorded June 7, 1860. A cemetery lot in this tract had been conveyed by Samuel M. Ayres and wife, August 13, 1855, to the county court of Iroquois county, Illinois, and deed was recorded December 9, 1873. An addition to this cemetery was made by Chamberlain and Lawrence, and in which both have been buried. Many of the old citizens of the two towns and surrounding country have been buried here.

A "County Clerk's Plat" of out-lots in S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of said Sec. 32, surveyed by John M. Burton, county surveyor, June 10, 1875, was recorded June 15, 1875. Also a "county clerk's plat" of out-lots in the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of said Sec. 32, surveyed by John M. Burton, county surveyor, May 20, 1876, was recorded May 26, 1876.

Said plats, with the territory beyond them included within the corporate limits, comprise the city of Watseka.

#### INCORPORATION.

South Middleport was incorporated, by vote, as a village, August 28, 1863. An election for trustees was held, September 7, 1863, at which A. B. Roff, Ransom Munson, George G. Mayo, Francis J. Sears and Conrad Secrest were elected. On September 12, 1863, the board of trustees organized by electing C. Secrest president, and R. Munson secretary.

The city of Watseka was incorporated by charter, approved February 19, 1867. The distinctive feature of this charter was that it prohibited the sale or giving away of intoxicating liquors, except for sacramental, mechanical and medicinal purposes. The charter in other respects conferred the usual powers granted to cities. The corporate limits embraced the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 4, and the N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sec. 5, T. 26 N., R. 12 W., and the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , and the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sec. 32, and the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sec. 33, T. 27 N., R. 12 W. The

city existed under this charter until November 16, 1872, when by vote it adopted the powers conferred by the general incorporation act of the state, approved April 18, 1872. The village of Middleport was annexed by ordinance to the city, April 5, 1869.

The following persons have been elected mayors and appointed clerks of the city: March 4, 1867, Charles Sherman, mayor, and A. B. Roff, clerk; March 2, 1868, Micajah Stanley, mayor, and H. H. Alter, clerk; March 1, 1869, Thomas Vennum, mayor, and H. H. Alter, clerk; March 7, 1870, George C. Harrington, mayor, and H. H. Alter, clerk; March 6, 1871, George C. Harrington, mayor, and H. H. Alter, clerk; March 4, 1872, Seeley Hetfield, mayor, and H. H. Alter, clerk; April 15, 1873, Seeley Hetfield, mayor, and H. H. Alter, clerk; April 20, 1875, M. H. Peters, mayor, and H. H. Alter, clerk; April 17, 1877, Franklin Blades, mayor, and H. H. Alter, clerk; April 15, 1879, M. Stanley, mayor, and H. H. Alter, clerk. Blades resigned, as mayor, September 8, 1877, and on October 9, 1877, Mathew H. Peters was elected to fill the vacancy.

Daniel C. Secrest, son of Hon. C. Secrest, was born June 10, 1860; Daniel Parker, son of Daniel Parker, Sr., died January 7, 1863; and Ransom Munson was married to Miss Julia A. Follett in April, 1860. These constitute the first birth, death and marriage in Watseka. Mr. Munson died January 8, 1871, aged about forty-one years. His widow resides in the city.

David Johnson is the first colored person who located in the city. He was born a slave, in Rutherford county, Tennessee, August 31, 1832. He was received in the 76th Ill. Vol. Inf. as a "contraband," in the summer of 1862, at Bolivar, Tennessee, and came to Watseka in November of that year. He married Mary A. Hemming, of Ross county, Ohio, April 25, 1867. Her father, Madison Hemming, son of "Dusky Sally," one of Thomas Jefferson's house servants, claims to be a son of Jefferson, and one of his colony of servants located by him in Ross county, Ohio, in 1830. Johnson is a barber by trade.

A post-office was established at Watseka in 1862, and A. B. Roff was appointed first postmaster. He held the office until 1866, when Charles Jouvenat was appointed his successor. In 1868 Zachens Beatty, editor of the "Republican," was appointed to succeed him. On February 23, 1874, our present postmaster was appointed, who is one of the most efficient and accommodating officers in the state. The statistics of the office for 1879 show: Number of mails forwarded, 3,120; number of stamps sold, 68,646; envelopes and wrappers, 12,150; postal cards, 35,778; total, 116,574; value of above, \$3,021.80, and total receipts, \$3,460.16. Money orders issued, 1,296; amount,



\$14,898.80; money orders paid, 843, and amount, \$10,999.38. Letters mailed, 71,240; postal cards, 27,976; newspapers, 88,036; packages, 728; total, 187,980. Total receipts, \$18,358.96.

The first building in South Middleport (now Watseka) was a dwelling, 32×38 feet, ground floor, and 22×28 feet above, seven rooms below and four in second story, erected by Asa B. Roff, Esq., on lots 7 and 8, in block 11, in the fall of 1859, costing \$1,500. This building is still standing, and is occupied and owned by Mrs. Taliaferro, daughter of Hon Micajah Stanley. Mr. Roff and family occupied this building until he built him a fine brick residence, just north of Roff & Doyle's addition, in 1868. He sold this about one year ago, and with his family removed to Kansas, where he now resides. The second was a warehouse, also used for a depot, 26×50 feet, with two rooms above for family, erected by John F. Fairman, at a cost of about \$500. This warehouse is still standing on the railroad, just east of the "Williams House," and is occupied by Mr. Fields. The third was a lumber office, 14×16 feet, built by Andrew Dalton on the railroad grounds. A large stock of lumber was kept in connection with it. This office is now occupied by Edward Dalton. The fourth was a hardware storeroom, built by William P. Pierson, of Onarga, in the spring of 1860, 20×56 feet, on block 21. This was filled by him with a stock of stoves, hardware, agricultural implements, etc., and he also had a stock of lumber in connection with it. The fifth was a restaurant and saloon building, built by John Steele, on the northeast corner of the depot grounds. This was occupied by him and others for some years, and finally sold to A. Willoughby and moved to a lot between Second and Third streets, on Walnut street. Steele came to Middleport in 1859, and brought there the first billiard table ever brought to the county. He has lately reformed and appears sincere. The sixth was a shoe shop, built by John Shafer, south of the depot grounds. The seventh was a grocery store building, 20×40 feet, with cellar, built by William M. Coney, on east half of lot 13, block 19. The eighth was a drug store and dwelling, 20×40 feet, two stories, built by Dr. C. Secrest, on lot 1, block 28. The ninth was a store building, 22×60 feet, two stories, with an addition, one story, 18×40 feet, built by Dr. William Fowler, on the south ends of lots 7 and 8, block 26. This building is now occupied by Mr. Daniel Fry with a stock of goods. The tenth was a saddler shop, built by William Munson, on west half of lot 13, block 19, and sold by him to John Fagan. This is now known as C. Wade's store building, and occupied by the Martin Brothers. The eleventh was a dwelling 16×36 feet, story and a half, with six rooms, built on west half of lot 14, block 19, by Dr.

Samuel Hueston. The twelfth was a grocery store building,  $18 \times 24$  feet, with cellar, and four rooms above, erected by George Courtright, on lot 11, block 19, and now occupied and owned by him. These were all built in the spring of 1860.

During the summer the following residences were erected: Cottage,  $34 \times 40$  feet, two stories, six rooms, hall and porch below, and three rooms and hall above, finished in good style, built by John L. Donovan, and still occupied by him and family. A dwelling,  $16 \times 24$  feet, one story and a half, with an addition,  $18 \times 20$  feet, five rooms below and three above, was built by William Brooks. This was subsequently purchased by Hon. Thomas Vennum, and has been enlarged and much improved, and is occupied by him and family. A dwelling,  $20 \times 30$  feet, two stories and six rooms, built by David Hutchinson, on lots 7 and 8, block 28; the building is now owned by Dr. Joseph Euans. A dwelling,  $20 \times 30$  feet, two stories and five rooms, built by Dr. D. Fenner, on lot 16, block 35, is now owned by Mr. David Johnson, and occupied by him and family. A dwelling by James Markle,  $20 \times 20$  feet, four rooms and cellar, on lot 9, block 2.

During the fall Hon. M. Stanley completed a hotel,  $44 \times 72$  feet, three stories, with one-story kitchen on southeast corner, erected on northwest corner of block 26. It contained a hall in second story,  $30 \times 50$  feet, and the building was well finished and furnished in first-class order. Mr. Stanley kept this house for the accommodation of the public about five years, and including the period of the war, and was noted for his liberality and kind disposition toward all, and especially the soldiers, justly and deservedly earning a reputation for the house attained by few. The house was destroyed by fire on Saturday night, February 16, 1866, caused by leaving kindling in the oven of the kitchen stove, which took fire. The inmates and guests were alarmed by the fire about three o'clock in the morning, and some were compelled to desert the building in their night-clothes. Three Irishman in the third story, who had failed to heed a timely warning to leave, were compelled to jump from a window to the pavement below, alighting upon some bedding thrown down for that purpose, all escaping without injury, although one of them, more scared than hurt, was heard to exclaim: "Holy Muther of Jasus, have mercy on me; my back's broke; whisper to God fur me!" This house was not rebuilt by Mr. Stanley, but the lots sold by him to Mr. James McCurdy, who rebuilt it in 1869. This property was sold, March 28, 1877, to Mr. William Williams, who has fitted it up in good order, and keeps a first-class house.

In the fall of 1860, Mr. Daniel Parker erected on lot 7, block 20, corner of Fourth and Walnut streets, a brick storeroom,  $21 \times 46$  feet,

two stories, with six rooms above for dwelling. This was the first brick built in the town. He filled the storeroom with a stock of goods and resided above. His son, Daniel, died here with small-pox, January 7, 1863.

During the summer and fall of 1860 the following residences were erected on out-lots in the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 32, T. 27 N., range 14 west: A dwelling, 16×25 feet, with two wings, 13×13 feet each, two stories, ten rooms and two halls, finished in fine style, by Chester Kinney, Esq. This building was destroyed by fire about the time it was completed, the last of September, 1860, supposed to have been the work of an incendiary. A dwelling, 20×26 feet, two stories, and a wing one story and a half, 14×17 feet, eight rooms, hall and cellar, finished in good style, was built by S. G. Bovie, Esq. He still resides in this building. The dwelling, 15×22 feet, one and a half story, five rooms, was built by G. H. Walser, Esq.; and dwelling by Aaron F. Wright, 14×21 feet, two rooms and cellar. A store building (frame), 40×50 feet, two stories and attic, was built by Benjamin F. Masters, on lot 9, block 19, corner of Third and Walnut streets, in 1861. This is now owned by John Reeder, and the west room, to which a one-story addition on back end, fifty feet in length, has been added, is now occupied by Isaac C. Wade's hardware store.

Andrew Dalton, in 1862, built a frame two-story store building, 20×90 feet, on the east half of lot 16, block 19. This building was afterward occupied by William Frees, Dodd & Browne, and Woodford & Harrington with stocks of hardware, but for several years has been occupied by C. G. Culver with a stock of dry-goods, groceries, etc. Dr. William Fowler built a fine cottage residence on a large out-lot in Chamberlain's addition in 1862, which, with the surroundings, was fitted up in good taste. Here he resided until his death, December 31, 1872. His first wife, Eleanor White, whom he had married at "Buncombe," in this county, in 1839, also died here in October, 1871. He had again married a short time before his death, and his widow still resides in this homestead. Dr. Fowler was born in England in 1814, came to Virginia when a youth, studied medicine there, and located in this county in 1837, resided in "Buncombe" until he came to Watseka with his family in 1862, and where he remained until his death. During the time he lived in this county he practiced his profession, and also for several years was engaged in selling goods. He was one of the pioneers of the county, a man of high standing and character both in his profession and out of it, kind in disposition, and highly respected. He was very sensitive, and by mistreatment he was induced to commit suicide by taking morphine.



In the spring of 1863, through the exertions of Rev. P. T. Rhodes, \$3,000 in amount were raised by subscription for building a M. E. church. A building committee, of which Dr. C. Secrest was chairman, was appointed, and the contract for building was let May 18, 1863. The building was erected during the summer, on the north half of lots 15 and 16, block 29, where it still stands. Since that time \$900 in amount has been raised and expended in improving the building. This was the first church built in the city of Watseka.

January 1, 1864, the Iroquois County Medical Society met in Watseka, and among other things adopted a bill of prices for medical and surgical services, the first of the kind adopted in the county. An extraordinary cold storm set in that evening, during which several persons returning to the country were badly frozen, among whom was a Mr. Ooton and a lady with him, who resided in Belmont. Ooton's limbs had to be amputated, and the lady died at the Poor Farm from the effects of the cold.

In April, 1865, the county seat was removed from Middleport to Watseka. The circuit clerk's and recorder's offices were first moved into a small building on lot 6, block 27, east across the street from Secrest's drug store, and the county clerk's office was moved into John Paul's building on the south side of the depot grounds. They were kept in these places a short time and then again moved, the circuit clerk's office to the lower story of the school building, on lot 11, block 20, and the county clerk's office to a room owned by William F. Keady, just west of it and on lot 10, of the same block. This was the east lower room of a two-story frame block that had a short time before been erected by William F. Keady, A. P. Fergusson and Daniel Parker. The offices were kept in these buildings until they were destroyed by fire, on the night of October 15, 1866, and they were then moved into the new court-house, which was nearly completed. During said time the upper story of the school-house had been used for a court room.

In 1865 Vennum & Tillinghast and John F. Fairman erected a wooden block on lot 15, block 19. The east lower room has been used for a drug store, and is owned by Mrs. George E. King (formerly Mrs. H. A. Tillinghast), and now occupied by the Arnold Bros.; and the west half of the building is owned by Adam K. McNeill, and occupied by Alex. Gillfillan as a dry-goods and grocery store. In 1866 Francis J. Sears, Thomas Vennum, William M. Coney, H. A. Tillinghast and John Paul, at a cost of about \$8,000, erected a brick building, 25 x 80 feet, and three stories, on the west half of lot 14, block 19. The lower story is occupied as a hardware store by L. Marsh, and the upper

story has been used as a Masonic hall, and is occupied by the lodge and the chapter of the order.

The three-story frame block, 44×54 feet, on lot 10, block 19, with brick basement, was moved from the "Old Town" in 1866, by C. F. McNeill and William Frees, at a cost of \$1,000. It is occupied by Dr. H. A. Alter's book store, and by Mr. Greene's grocery and boot and shoe store. Aaron Willoughby's brick, 25×70 feet, with stone cellar, was built in 1868, at a cost of \$6,500, on west half of lot 12, block 19. It is occupied by him as a grocery store. William M. Coney's brick, 25×100 feet, two stories and cellar, was built by him on east half of lot 13, block 19, in 1875, at a cost of \$4,500. It is occupied by him as a dry-goods and grocery store. Mrs. Emily English's brick, 20×50 feet, on west half of lot 16, block 19, was built by her in 1869, at a cost of \$5,000. It is two stories and used as a bakery and boarding house.

The National Bank Building, 25×70 feet, two stories, on west half of lot 8, block 20, was built in 1875, at a cost of about \$4,500. The lower story is used by the First National Bank, and the upper story as an Odd-Fellows hall, and is used by the lodge and encampment of that order.

The court-house was erected on the west half of block 29, in 1866, at a cost of \$28,000. For further particulars as to this, the reader is referred to the General History of the county.

The brick school building was erected in 1868, at a cost of about \$12,000, on a tract of four acres immediately south of block 34, bought for the sum of 1,200 of the executors of the estate of Hon. John Chamberlain. The building is 60×75 feet, two stories and basement, warmed by a hot-air furnace, and well furnished.

Between the years 1855 and 1870, and somewhat later, several fine brick residences were erected in the city, among which may be mentioned those built by Charles Sherman, Mrs. Orra L. Chamberlain, Decatur Morgan, Asa B. Roff, William P. Anthony, M. Stanley, L. Marquardt, Daniel Parker, George E. King and the writer. During the same time many fine frame residences were erected, among which may be mentioned those built by Hon. Franklin Blades, Dr. William Fowler, Dr. C. Secrest, Daniel Fry, Seeley Hetfield, John L. Donovan, William M. Coney, John Sheridan, John Fagan, Thadeus Wade, Robert Doyle, George C. Harrington, Dr. Jewett, Hon. Thomas Vennum, Tracy B. Harris and many others, which we cannot take the space to mention. The city is noted for fine residences.

Between the years 1862 and 1868, many store buildings and residences were moved from the "Old Town" to Watseka.

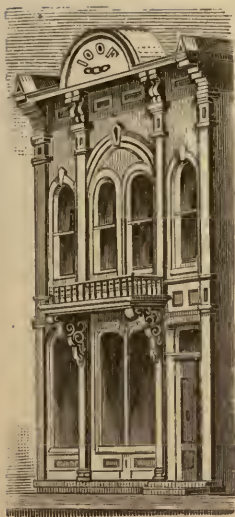


*John L. Donovan*



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## THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF WATSEKA



Was organized in the year 1870, with a capital of \$50,000, the stockholders representing some of the best known and wealthiest citizens of the county. At the first election of officers Hon. Samuel Williams was chosen president, David McGill, vice-president, and George C. Harrington, cashier. There has been no change in the officers of the bank since its organization, with the exception of the election of an assistant cashier, in the person of Josiah G. Williams. Not knowing whether the enterprise would receive immediate recognition by the public, the bank made its first office in the second story of the Willoughby Building. However, meeting with unexpected favor, it was soon necessitated to seek a more accessible and commodious office and shortly erected

a wood structure on the site of the present building. This building not proving adequate, the bank, in connection with the lodge of Odd-Fellows, as before stated, erected their present fine building in 1875. The bank now has the reputation of doing the largest volume of commercial business of any bank of its capital in the Northwest, its exchanges running in to millions of dollars annually. During the financial panic of 1871, caused by the Chicago fire, and the subsequent panic of 1873, when most of the banks in the country were necessitated to close their doors, the First National Bank of Watseka kept open doors and honored every demand made upon it. It is recognized as one of the institutions of the county in which the people feel a just pride,—solid and safe beyond question, and its management conservative enough to keep it so. The banking house of Donovan, Woodford & Co. (John L. Donovan, George A. Woodford and Thomas Vennum, proprietors) commenced operations in the second story of the Masonic Building, in 1869. This bank did a profitable and reputable business, unaffected by the panics, until November 2, 1874, when the proprietors sold out to the firm of J. Matzenbaugh & Co., composed of Josiah Matzenbaugh and Henry T. Skeels. The name was then changed to the Watseka Bank. This firm dissolved partnership, March 1, 1878, and the business was continued by Henry T. Skeels. This bank failed, and an assignment of its effects was made to Daniel Fry, for the benefit of its creditors, March 14, 1879. It is presumed that the effects will satisfy all just claims.

The Opera Hall Building, 40×60 feet, was erected on the south

halves of lots 1 and 2, block 18, in 1867, by John Reeder, for a woolen factory. It was filled with machinery for this purpose by Mr. Russell, and run for some time manufacturing woolen goods; but the supply of water failing (this was before artesian wells), the machinery was sold to J. W. Stearns & Co., and removed to the "Old Town." It stood unused for several years, and was then fitted up for a hall. It is now owned by Mr. John W. Riggs, who is well patronized—the citizens manifesting a taste for theatrical, scientific, intellectual and other entertainments.

The Baptist church, on lots 9 and 10, block 9, was built in 1869. It is a frame, 40×60 feet, and not yet entirely finished.

The Catholic church, 35×55 feet, was erected on lots 9 and 10, block 3, in the fall of 1878. It is a frame, and cost about \$3,000.

The Methodist Episcopal church, Presbyterians, Baptists, Catholics, United Brethren and Adventists have church organizations in Watseka, the dates of which the writer has not been able to procure, but most of them have had organizations for many years.

#### THE SCHOOLS OF WATSEKA.

The first school in Watseka was a small frame building erected on the south side of the depot grounds in 1861. This was sold, and removed by James T. S. Irons to his lot in the southeastern part of the city in 1865, and was afterward used by him for a carpenter shop. In 1863 a two-story frame school-house, 20×36 feet, was built on lot 11, block 20, at a cost of about \$2,000. The first school taught in this was by J. B. Eno, now of Crescent. This building was rented to the county in the summer of 1865, the lower story being used for the county clerk's and the treasurer's offices, and the upper story for a court-room. It was in this room that Harper was tried and convicted for the murder of Nelson. This building was destroyed by fire on the night of October 15, 1866, as before stated.

The present brick school-house, on the four-acre lot south of block 34, was erected in 1868, as elsewhere stated, at a cost, including the grounds, of about \$14,000, and the bonds of the district to that amount were issued and sold to John Sheridan to raise the necessary amount to purchase the grounds and erect the building. The district is a union district, No. 7, towns 26 and 27 north, range 12 west, 2d principal meridian. Previous to 1866, M. Stanley, Charles Sherman and A. B. Roff were directors. Since that date the following directors have been elected: 1866, John Paul; 1867, Thadens Wade; 1868, C. Secrest; 1869, C. F. McNeill, in place of Secrest, resigned; 1869, John Paul; 1870, W. I. Jones, Z. Beatty and William Fowler—



McNeill and Paul having resigned; 1871, Fowler reëlected for three years; 1872, Seeley Hetfield elected for three years; January 11, 1873, Henry H. Alter elected in place of William Fowler, deceased; 1873, W. I. Jones reëlected; 1874, John Allison; 1875, L. N. Pittwood; 1876, W. I. Jones reëlected; 1877, D. W. Ayres; 1878, H. A. Butzow; and 1879, Josiah Williams. The amount borrowed on the bonds of the district, except \$6,000, has been paid. After the burning of the school-house, and until the present one was erected, John Paul's store-room on south side was used for a school-room. The amount of \$1,300 insurance was collected and appropriated for school purposes.

The school, since the present building was erected, has been a graded school, and attained a high reputation under the management of Profs. Neal and Paisley.

#### THE PRESS OF THE COUNTY-SEAT.

The first paper published at the county-seat and in the county, was "The Iroquois Journal," a weekly newspaper, devoted to politics, literature, the arts and sciences, agriculture, etc., published every Wednesday, by J. A. Graham; office in Wagner & Patterson's building, up stairs (Middleport). The subscription price was \$1.50 per annum. This was a six-column paper, set in long primer type, and whig in politics. This paper was printed on a "Ramage press" of the style of the days of Franklin,—wooden frame, double bed and single platen, requiring two pulls to print one side of the paper. It was almost useless, the bed having been worn so much by rubbing with pumice stone that it required several layers of paper under the form to bring the center up. This press was used fifty years before in printing the territorial laws of Indiana, at Vincennes. It was bought by John R. Jones in 1842, and taken to Perrysville, Indiana, where Jones published the "Perrysville Eagle," which he printed on this press. In 1843 or 1844, Jones sold the press and office to Daniel Clapp, who took it to Danville, Illinois, and started the "Danville Patriot," which was printed on it. He afterward sold out to Roney & Peabody, who published the "Illinois Herald," which was also printed on this press up to November, 1850. On January 1, 1851, they sold this press and office to Joseph A. Graham for \$400. It was hauled from Danville to Middleport for Mr. Graham, by Henry Root (since of Onarga) and Garrett Eoff (then of Middleport, but since deceased). Three volumes of the "Iroquois Journal" were printed on this press, when about April 1, 1854, it was sold to William F. Keady and Benjamin Scott, who printed one volume of the "Iroquois County Press" on it. It then went out of use until 1861, when it was sold to George Sellers & Bro., then of Clifton, in this county, who took it to Tuscola, in this

state, and there printed a paper on it which they published, the name of which the writer is not now able to give. If this old press could still be found it would prove a valuable relic of a past age. The first issue of the "Iroquois Journal" is dated February 19, 1851. It has a "leader" on the prospects of Middleport, and also advocates slack-water navigation by the improvement, for that purpose, of the Iroquois and Kankakee rivers; chronicles the return of G. B. Joiner, H. C. Bryant and John Lehigh from California, and contains the advertisements of A. B. Roff, boot and shoe maker, Market street, Middleport; and S. A. Washington, J. A. Whiteman, and Gardner & Fletcher, attorneys-at-law, Middleport Illinois. Three volumes of this paper were published at Middleport by Mr. Graham, the last issue being dated March 29, 1854, and a complete file of which is in the possession of the writer. It was ably conducted, and a lively interesting paper for its day.

Mr. Graham sold the "Journal" office, about April 1, 1854, to William F. Keady and Benjamin Scott for \$450, who then commenced the publication of the "Iroquois County Press," a democratic paper, at Middleport. About one year after, Keady bought Scott's interest in the paper, purchased a new Washington press, and enlarged the paper to seven columns, and changed the name to "The Middleport Weekly Press." It was ably conducted by him in the interests of his party, but on account of his opposition to what he called "The Swamp Land Swindle," in the sale of the swamp lands of the county, he incurred the displeasure and opposition of some of the magnates of the democratic party, and thought it prudent to sell out, which he did to Joseph Thomas and Ray W. Andrews, and retired from the paper, with the issue of July 18, 1857. Harmon Westbrook was employed by Thomas & Andrews as editor, but soon becoming offensive he was discharged by them, and was succeeded by Caleb Pink. Mr. Pink withdrew from the paper, July 27, 1858, and was succeeded by Michael Hogle as editor, and about the same time Hon. John Chamberlain became the proprietor. Mr. Hogle conducted the paper with some ability for several years, but his strong southern sentiments at the commencement of the war became very offensive, even to many of his own party, and they repudiated his paper, and he retired from it about October 1, 1864. He was succeeded by George C. Harrington as editor, who had charge of the paper for one year, and conducted it with ability and taste. The "Press" then ceased to exist.

"The Investigator," a democratic paper, was started at Middleport, during the summer of 1855, by Dr. Richard Taliaferro and James H. Graham, in opposition to the "Middleport Press," in the interests of

a faction of the democratic party, the members of which had become offended at Mr. Keady. It was a six column paper, set in long primer and printed on a "Foster press." It was published irregularly about six months, and then died for the want of patronage, and the office was sold to Mr. Thomas Vennum, and soon after the press and material were used for publishing "The Iroquois Republican," published every Thursday morning by J. A. Graham and D. T. Lindley, Jesse Bennett and Franklin Blades, editors, with the motto, "Strike, But Hear!" The first issue of this paper is dated at Middleport, May 8, 1856, —office in the room adjoining the store of S. S. & D. B. Gardner. The paper appears to have been well patronized from the start, and the first issue contains the cards of Drs. Harwood and Tupper, Dr. Jesse Bennett, Franklin Blakes, M.D.; M. V. B. Harwood and H. C. Bryant, druggists; G. B. Joiner, James Fletcher, Stephen G. Bovie and Jacob A. Whiteman, attorneys; Empie & Eldridge, saddlers; Seldon & White, bridge-builders; Daniel Hutchinson, blacksmith; E. R. Aiken, A.M., Middleport Collegiate Institute and Female Seminary; Barr & White, American House; and H. O. Henry, Wilson House. This issue also contains the names of the first republican central committee of the county, appointed at a convention held at Middleport, March 29, 1856, as follows: Middleport, Dr. Bennett, Dr. Blades and S. M. Ayers; Crab Apple, Winslow Woods; Milford, William Gray; Onarga, Judge Pangborn; Belmont, John Strean; Wygandt, James P. Martin; Concord, Dr. Urmston; Beaver, Jonathan Watkins; Loda, James H. Major; Ash Grove, John H. Stidham; and Chebanse, R. J. Hannah.

October 9, 1856, Graham & Lindley dissolved partnership, and Graham continues as publisher, and associates Andrew Robertson with him as printer. December 18, 1856, Graham & Vennum enter into partnership as publishers. March 26, 1857, Dr. Jesse Bennett severs his connection with the paper, and Dr. Blades continues as sole editor. August 6, 1857, Thomas Vennum closes his connection with the paper as publisher. November 5, 1857, Graham sells out to Andrew Robertson and William H. Sheward, who become publishers. June 30, 1859, Dr. Blades withdraws from the paper and Andrew Robertson becomes editor. September 29, 1859, Robertson retires; and November 3, 1859, Thomas Vennum announces the sale of the office to C. F. McNeill, who takes charge of it, and Samuel S. Patton is employed as foreman. January 7, 1861, McNeill sells the office to J. Ralph Robinson and Ancel B. Caddy. Robinson had formerly been editor of the "North Fairfield Gazette," Ohio, and latterly local of the "Peoria Transcript," and Mr. Caddy had for the three years previous been foreman



in the "Transcript" office. Caddy left, October 27, 1861, to join Capt. McAllister's battery, at Fort Holt, and he died in the military service March 7, 1862, on the government hospital boat "Memphis." The office was sold to A. G. Smith February 19, 1862. Robinson went to Ohio and became the editor of the "Bucyrus Journal," having purchased that paper of D. R. Locke ("Nashy"). The office was removed by Mr. Smith to Watseka, in the spring of 1863. In October, 1866, Smith sold the office to Zacheus Beatty, of Knoxville, Illinois, and removed to Danville, Illinois, where he became the proprietor and publisher of the "Danville Daily and Weekly Times." He was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, in 1834, and educated in Ohio. April 1, 1873, Mr. Beatty sold the office to Alex. L. Whitehall and Elmer Brimhall, of Watseka. He had enlarged the paper in 1872 and changed its name to the "Witseka Republican."

After selling out, Mr. Beatty and family returned to Knoxville, Illinois, where he now resides, and is publishing the "Republican Register." Mr. Brimhall purchased the interest of Mr. Whitehall in the paper, August 24, 1876, and became its sole editor and proprietor, and changed it to its present quarto form. August 1, 1877, he sold the office to Lorenzo Watson and H. A. Jerauld. Mr. Jerauld disposed of his interest to Watson, October 1, 1878, who is now the sole editor and proprietor of the paper. A power press has been added to the office. The "Republican" is the oldest paper in the county, having been established *over twenty-four years ago*. It has generally been conducted with ability, and has had much influence in shaping the political and civil affairs of the county, and has been foremost in every moral reform.

The "Iroquois County Herald" was established about October 1, 1865, on the ruins of the "Middleport Weekly Press." This paper was published weekly, on Saturday, by George W. Keady (Michael Hogle, editor), at Middleport. It was independent in politics. The office was moved to Watseka about February 1, 1867, the last issue at Middleport being dated January 27, 1866, *and this being the last paper published at Middleport*. This issue contains an account of "a singular stroke of lightning" at Middleport, on Friday evening, about nine o'clock, January 19, 1866, at which time the dwelling-house of the writer and the writer himself were struck, the house being badly damaged and the writer severely injured by the bolt. We give this incident to prove that it is even possible *to be struck with lightning in January*, and survive it. Some time after the removal of the paper to Watseka, Charles Jouvenat became its editor. He was also appointed in the meantime postmaster at Watseka, and through the means thus

obtained he sustained the paper until the spring of 1869, when he was removed from the post-office, and his paper ceased to exist. The press and material were sold some time after and taken to Rensselaer, Indiana.

"The Iroquois County Times" was founded at Onarga, in this county, by Louis M. Babcock and Jacob Keiser, the first issue being dated December 1, 1870, under the name of the "Onarga Times." Mr. Keiser in a short time withdrew from the firm, and Mr. Charles Drumm purchased an interest in the paper, Babcock being editor and Drumm foreman. On March 16, 1871, the paper was enlarged to an eight-column folio. In May of the same year the office was removed to Watseka, the last issue at Onarga being dated May 4, 1871, and the first at Watseka, May 27, 1871, the name having been changed to "The Iroquois Times." In December, 1872, the office was sold to Col. M. H.



Peters, who took control of the paper January 1, 1873. He sold it to Mr. Otto H. Wangelin, of Belleville, Illinois, June 5, 1874, who on February 26, 1875, enlarged it to a seven-column quarto, and on August 13, 1875, sold it to Mr. Auguste Langellier, who afterward, on August 10, 1876, reduced it to a six-column paper. During his management the Washington press upon which the paper had been printed was replaced by an Acme power press, the largest country size, and at the same time changed the name of the paper to "The Iroquois County Times." On July 1, 1878, Col. Peters again purchased the office, and is now sole editor and proprietor. He enlarged it to a seven-column quarto on January 1, 1878, the largest sized country paper published in the state.

The office is large and complete and permanently established, and the paper ably conducted. In politics the "Times" was originally independent republican, supporting Greeley for president in 1872. It has

since been independent in politics, and pursued that course which seemed to its editor best calculated to advance the interests of the people. Latterly it has advocated financial reform and supported the greenback party. Charles Drumm, who entered the office when it was first established, is still foreman, and is one of the best printers in the state.

#### MURDERS AND EXECUTIONS.

It has not been judicially determined that a murder has ever been committed at the county-seat, but it is charged that one, Daniel Peitz, poisoned his wife at Middleport, and Martin Meara was taken from the jail at Watseka and hanged by a mob. Peitz's wife died August 11, 1864, at two o'clock in the morning, a few days after she had given birth to a child. A short time before Peitz had purchased a quantity of arsenic at H. A. Tillinghast's drug store, in Middleport, stating at the time that he wanted it to poison rats. While his wife was sick he purchased her some port wine. He gave her some of this in a tea-cup on the morning of August 10, 1864. She was immediately taken violently ill, and Drs. McNeill and Sommers were sent for. Upon examination they pronounced it a case of poisoning, and search being made for the cup from which she had taken the wine, it was found concealed on an upper shelf of the pantry, and in the bottom of it was found nearly an ounce of arsenic, which had been saturated with the wine. Peitz was soon after arrested, and when his wife died a coroner's jury found that she came to her death from poison being administered to her by her husband, Daniel Peitz, and he was committed to jail. There then being no jail in the county, he was sent to Kankakee city for safe keeping. Soon after he made his escape from the jail, and has not since been heard of.

#### THE MEARA TRAGEDY.

Martin Meara, an Irishman and a farmer, who resided between Onarga and Gilman, in this county, was charged with having, about June 15, 1871, whipped his son, a lad of about eleven years of age, to death. The body of the boy was found and Meara arrested, about the first of July, and upon an examination he was committed to jail to await the action of the grand jury upon the matter. For a more particular account of these occurrences the reader is referred to the history of the town of Onarga. On Sunday morning, July 2, 1871, Meara was brought to jail, and at his request Roff & Doyle visited him as counsel. On the next day his wife came to see him. On Tuesday, the 4th, there was a celebration at Milford, which many of the citizens of Watseka attended. In the evening the writer, who had attended with others, returned, and was informed by the sheriff



that Luther T. Clark, of Onarga, had arrived and had intimated that a mob might be expected that night to hang Meara. The writer advised him to summon a guard, which he did, of a few determined persons. The mob came, as it was afterward learned, but being notified by Clark that they would meet with resistance, they left. For greater safety, however, the prisoner was taken to the woods by the sheriff, in the latter part of the night, and returned to jail in the morning. It was presumed that this would be the end of the matter, and early in the morning the writer went to Chicago on important business, and did not return until the next day. Circuit court was then in session, Judge Charles H. Wood presiding, but had adjourned from the Saturday before until the afternoon of the 5th. During that day rumors were rife in Watseka that another mob was gathering about Onarga and would be over in the afternoon. At half past two Judge Wood arrived from Onarga on the train, and with him many persons from the west side of the county, supposed to be implicated in the mob. When Judge Wood came through Gilman Dr. Elias Wenger presented him a petition, signed by twenty-three of the best citizens of that place, requesting him to call a grand jury to act upon the Meara case and put him upon trial. This Judge Wood refused to do, which had the tendency to further excite the mob spirit. Soon after court opened, Sheriff South, with W. S. Kay, Esq., consulted the judge as to the propriety of removing Meara for safety, and he advised them that the jail was the proper place for him, but gave no further specific advice or directions in the matter. The mob gathered about two o'clock in the timber at the mouth of Sugar creek, just west of the "Old Town." They came on horseback and in wagons, with arms and bludgeons, sledges and crowbars. They organized by electing E. J. Barber, of Onarga, leader, who declined, and nominated Athiel Simms who was then elected. He remained quiet and said nothing. Dr. B. J. Daniels, a disreputable practitioner of Gilman, itching for notoriety, thereupon announced that he would act as leader, and got upon his horse and went to Watseka. Here he distributed a large number of printed accounts of the murder, for the purpose of exciting the sympathies of the citizens in favor of the mob. In the evening, after borrowing an old hat and clothes in which to do his murderous work, he returned, but in the meantime the mob had been formed and was marching for Watseka, and was met half-way by Daniels, who harangued them. They then made a dash upon the court-house, about six o'clock, and just after court had adjourned, and were met at the gate by Sheriff South, who commanded them to "halt!" The mob disregarded his command and wrested the arms from the hands of the guard.

They then battered down the outside door which had been barred, demanded the keys of the jail of the sheriff, who refused to give them up, and then with sledges battered down the door of the jail and also the cell containing Meara. Meara was both handcuffed and shackled and utterly defenseless, and in this condition he was dragged out of the jail and court-house, and thus to a wagon, over one hundred yards distant, into which he was thrown. Daniels then mounted the wagon and again harangued the mob, in which he said that: "We are aware that he (Meara) could only be indicted for manslaughter, which would simply send him to the penitentiary for a few years." Meara was then driven to the timber west of Sugar creek, and under a leaning mulberry tree. It was then announced to him that he could have but a short time in which to prepare for death. He then called for a Catholic priest, and the response was that there was none present. He then asked if there were any Catholics present, and the answer being "Yes," he asked them to pray for him. Rev. C. H. Palmer, of the Presbyterian church, then made a lengthy prayer, after which Meara spent a few moments in giving directions as to his property and accounts. He then said that when he joined the Masons he had made many enemies, and he then made the grand hailing sign of distress in Masonry, and this eliciting no response, he renounced Masonry and said he wanted to die a Catholic. In the meantime a rope had been prepared with a hangman's knot upon it. Meara had been a very short time in an attitude of prayer when he was told to stand up, which he did, and the rope was passed down to Daniels, who placed the noose around Meara's neck and tied a handkerchief over his face, and the wagon was then driven out and Meara launched into eternity. After he had been hanging but a short time Daniels shot two balls through his body, out of a revolver. The crowd then dispersed and the body was left hanging over night.

Most everything has its ludicrous side, and this case was not an exception. A short time after the crowd had dispersed, which was after dark, a family of emigrants with a wagon came along and camped near the place. They had heard nothing of the affair, and the first they knew of it was in the morning when they discovered Meara hanging upon a tree! They then supposed that the whole thing had occurred after their arrival and during the night. Fearing that they might be charged with the crime, or perhaps be the next victims, they incontinently fled without preparing breakfast.

In the morning the body was taken down by citizens of Watseka, and the coroner being absent an inquest was held by Justice L. Arm-

strong. After an examination of several witnesses the jury brought in the following verdict:

"STATE OF ILLINOIS, Iroquois county, ss:

"In the matter of the inquisition on the body of Martin Meara, deceased, held at Watseka, on the 6th day of July, A.D. 1871, we, the undersigned jurors, sworn to inquire of the death of Martin Meara, on oath do find that he came to his death by being hanged by the neck, and shot with a pistol, by the hands of B. J. Daniels, Alvin L. Bates, Samuel Higginson, Samuel Hannah, John Lowe, Otto Myers, H. C. Mosher, and others whose names are at present unknown to the jurors; that the body of Martin Meara was shown to this jury, hanging to a tree, and with two wounds in his body, in Middleport township, Iroquois county, and state of Illinois, about one mile west of Watseka, near the bridge crossing of Sugar creek; that the said Martin Meara was killed on the 5th day of July, 1871."

A warrant was issued on this verdict and some of the parties arrested, and some fled the country. Mosher, Myers and Lowe were taken before Judge Wood, after arrest, on a writ of habeas corpus, and by him discharged. Daniels was taken before Judge S. D. Puterbaugh, of Peoria, and by him held to bail in the sum of \$5,000, which was given. The grand jury at the following November term of the court failed to find indictments against the parties.

For an account of the execution of John McDonnell and Francis Marion Harper alias Johnson, see General History of the county.

#### SECRET SOCIETIES AT THE COUNTY-SEAT.

The first Masonic lodge organized in the county was at Middleport, in 1850, and William E. Russell, of Danville, was the first master; Dr. Nathaniel Wilson, senior warden; and Isaac Courtright, junior warden. This lodge was chartered as "Iroquois Lodge, No. 83, A.F. and A.M." We find a record of the election of its officers, December 23, 1853, as follows: William E. Russell, W.M.; M. Hogle, S.W.; Isaac Courtright, J.W.; A. O. Whiteman, T.; John Harwood, Sec.; J. A. Graham, S.D.; George P. Wolf, J.D.; Daniel Parker, tiler; and William Pearce and Hamilton Jefferson, stewards. This lodge existed until September 15, 1857, at which time the following were its officers: C. F. McNeill, W.M.; James Fletcher, S.W.; H. O. Henry, J.W.; C. R. Brown, T.; John Harwood, Sec.; M. V. B. Harwood, S.D.; John Fagan, J.D.; and R. Talliaferro, tiler; and the following Masons were within its jurisdiction: S. A. Washington, Michael Hogle, John Paul, John L. Donovan, John A. Strickler, Chester Nobles, A. O. Whiteman, William Roberts, William S. Torbet. M.



Stanley, John Hedge, J. A. Whiteman, James Lawrence, Samuel Hueston, Hamilton Jefferson, Ray W. Andrews, Thomas A. Norvell, William C. Moore, William Pearce and Daniel Parker; and who, with said officers, were the only Masons then in the county, so far as known. The charter of this lodge was surrendered for the purpose of forming a new organization, and a dispensation was granted, October 7, 1857, to C. F. McNeill, James Fletcher, H. O. Henry, Cyrus R. Brown, John Harwood, M. V. B. Harwood, John Fagan and Richard Talliaferro, to form a new lodge, and the following members were named as officers: C. F. McNeill, master; James Fletcher, senior warden; and H. O. Henry, junior warden. This lodge was afterward chartered as "Iroquois Lodge, No. 289." The last mentioned lodge existed until about 1863 or 1864, when its charter was surrendered. Both lodges were at Middleport, and meetings were first held in an upper room in the old court-house, until the fall of 1854, after which they were held in the upper story of the three-story building formerly known as the "King and Hogle Building."

A dispensation for a new lodge at Watseka was granted January 13, 1865, and J. W. Flowers was named as W.M.; L. N. Pittwood, S.W.; and L. M. Peck, J.W.; and D. Parker was appointed treasurer; A. B. Roff, secretary; William M. Coney, S.D.; J. L. Horton, J.D.; and William Munson, tiler. This lodge was chartered in October following, as Watseka Lodge, No. 446, and the following officers elected and installed: L. N. Pittwood, W.M.; L. M. Peck, S.W.; F. Blades, J.W.; Daniel Parker, treasurer; A. B. Roff, secretary; W. M. Coney, S.D.; William Munson, J.D.; and E. Kice, tiler. This lodge is still existing, and has a large membership, and meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

Watseska Chapter, No. 114; dispensation issued April 22, 1867, and charter granted October 4, 1867, with the following members: L. N. Pittwood, D. L. Jewett, C. F. McNeill, G. A. Woodford, John L. Donovan, W. M. Coney, J. H. Bishop, James Wasson, James Cauvins, Daniel Weston, H. O. Henry, W. H. Sommers, J. L. Horton, S. B. Norton, D. Reinhard, E. Dalton, A. B. Roff, Robert Doyle, L. D. Brown, A. M. Gillfillan, George Good, Joseph Good and H. A. Tillinghast. On December 11, 1867, the following officers were installed: G. A. Woodford, M.E.H.P.; L. N. Pittwood, E.K.; C. F. McNeill, E.S.; D. L. Jewett, C.H.; A. B. Roff, P.S.; W. M. Coney, R.A.C.; Daniel Weston, G.M. 2d V.; J. L. Donovan, G.M. 3d V.; James Wasson, G.M. 1st V.; E. Dalton, secretary; W. M. Coney, treasurer; and J. H. Bishop, sentinel. This chapter has sixty-eight members, and meets on the second and fourth Wednesday evenings of each month in Masonic Hall.

Iroquois Lodge, No. 74, I.O.O.F., was instituted in Middleport, on Monday, July 15, 1850, under a dispensation granted by the grand master, G. W. Woodward, countersigned by S. A. Corneau, grand secretary, dated June 15, 1850. The following were the petitioners: James D. Wilson, John Fagan, Asa B. Roff, John F. Wagner and Winthrop Patterson. The lodge was instituted by district deputy grand master J. F. McDougal, assisted by William E. Little, acting grand warden; F. L. Cagwin, acting grand marshal; C. C. Smith, acting grand guardian; and Franklin Mitchell, acting grand secretary. Henry W. Hogle, Joseph Myers, Ezekiel Bowman, R. V. Chesley, E. W. Arehart and William Gray were the first initiates. The first officers were: A. B. Roff, N.G.; John Fagan, V.G.; John F. Wagner, secretary; and James D. Wilson, treasurer. The lodge continued to meet in Middleport until September, 1866, when it was removed to Watseka, and in October, 1868, the name was changed from Middleport to Iroquois Lodge. This lodge has in its time done much good, and exerted a healthful influence among the people, by whom the order appears to be much esteemed in Watseka. During its thirty years of existence, Iroquois Lodge, No. 74, has embraced in its ranks many of the most respectable and enterprising citizens of the vicinity. At present it holds, in the name of its trustees, its own lodge-room, which is the pride of its members. The exterior of the building, being in modern style, presents a very attractive appearance, the three symbolic links, in gilt, adorning a shield in front, being a conspicuous object for all eyes. The lodge is in a prosperous condition, and one of the staunchest benevolent institutions in Watseka. The officers the present year are: M. H. Peters, N.G.; John M. Burton, V.G.; H. A. Butzow, secretary; John H. Bishop, treasurer; and C. Secrest, deputy and representative to the Grand Lodge.

Iroquois Encampment, No. 81, I.O.O.F.—This advanced branch of the order was instituted in Watseka November 25, 1867, with the following charter members: Thomas Vennum, N. P. Petts, Conrad Secrest, A. W. Hogle, Ransom Munson, John H. Bishop, John G. Wagner, Polite Laroche, J. Baldwin, A. B. Roff, George C. Harrington and M. H. Peters. The ceremonies of institution were conducted by N. C. Nason, of Peoria, deputy grand patriarch, assisted by R. J. Bliss, of Fairbury, high priest; S. S. Buckner, Fairbury, senior warden; J. L. Starley, Peoria, junior warden; John Highlands, Eureka, scribe; and patriarchs J. A. Sellman, M. B. Gately and — Frankhouser, of Fairbury, and patriarch J. L. West, of Eureka. The first officers were: Thomas Vennum, chief patriarch; N. B. Petts, H.P.; C. Secrest, S.W.; A. W. Hogle, J.W.; G. C. Harrington, scribe; and

J. H. Bishop, treasurer. The present officers are: G. C. Harrington, C.P.; Charles E. Barber, H.P.; M. H. Peters, scribe; and J. H. Bishop, treasurer.

The Order of Knights of Honor, although of very recent origin, has taken a very strong foothold in Watseka. Watseka Lodge, No. 1086, Knights of Honor, was organized May 24, 1878, by Deputy Gr. Dict. L. G. Roberts, of Mattoon, with the following charter members: Alex. L. Whitehall, L. W. Watson, F. E. Foster, M. H. Peters, Richard Carroll, H. M. Towne, D. W. Arnold, L. W. Roberts, Henry Upsall, B. W. Nelson, Carl Drumm and L. C. Marsh. M. H. Peters was its first representative to the Grand Lodge of the state, and for 1880 the representative of the Grand Lodge to the Supreme Lodge of the United States. The following is a list of its present officers: Dictator, Fred E. Foster; vice-dictator, D. W. Arnold; assistant dictator, Richard Carroll; reporter, C. C. Arehart; financial reporter, M. H. Peters; treasurer, George C. Harrington; chaplain, Josiah Williams; past dictators, M. H. Peters, A. L. Whitehall, L. F. Watson and Henry Upsall. The order embraces in its ranks many of the leading men of Watseka.

The temperance movement in the county, and which finally thoroughly revolutionized the county, originated in Middleport, away back in the "forties," by public lectures and speeches, and Don Alonzo Falkenbury, a local Methodist preacher, who came there in 1842 and remained about ten years, was the prime mover in the reform.

• Division 88, Sons of Temperance, was organized at least as early as 1850. The first election of its officers which the writer has been able to obtain was April 2, 1851, at which time the following officers were elected: L. Phillips, W.P.; A. P. Davis, W.A.; James M. Smith, R.S.; J. A. Graham, A.R.S.; C. Turner, F.S.; S. A. Washington, T.; J. J. Scofield, C.; J. B. Dille, A.C.; M. Scofield, I.S.; and J. E. Harris, O.S.

Union No. 19, Daughters of Temperance, was organized about the same time, and April 9, 1851, elected for the quarter: Julia Bennett, P.S.; Elizabeth Scofield, A.S.; Sarah Harwood, R.S.; Ellen Brown, A.R.S.; Mariah Frazier, F.S.; Elizabeth Haviland, T.; Ann E. Haviland, C.; Mary Haviland, A.C.; Lavina Little, I.G.; and Ann Roff, O.G.

The Cadets of Temperance were organized June 24, 1852, by Dr. M. V. B. Harwood. We have no record of their officers, but the membership consisted of most of the young of Middleport. These organizations existed until about 1856, with a large membership, when Banner Lodge, No. 62, Independent Order of Good Templars, was organized. We are not able to give the first officers of this lodge, but can state that it existed at Middleport for several years, and exerted a



powerful influence, not only in the village but throughout the county, in conjunction with the press of the place, which, to its honor be it said, was always on the side of temperance.

As early as 1850 there was also a Washingtonian Society organized at Middleport, of which James Fletcher was president, and M. V. B. Harwood, secretary. And we find that on February 15, 1854, a temperance meeting was held in favor of the "Maine law," at which J. L. Samington was president; A. O. Whiteman, secretary; and addressed by Dr. Jesse Bennett, S. A. Washington and S. G. Bovie. A vigilance committee was appointed at this meeting, consisting of W. F. Patterson, S. G. Bovie, Daniel Fry, A. O. Whiteman, Benjamin Scott, Dr. Bennett and William F. Keady.

At Watseka there have been an organization of the Sons of Temperance and two Lodges of the Independent Order of Good Templars, and for two or three years past a Temperance Reform Club, which has held weekly meetings, and in which much interest has been taken. All these efforts have culminated in making Watseka a thorough temperance city, in which a saloon does not exist.

"Know Nothings."—As early as 1854 "Sam" might have been found in Middleport without much inquiry, although when you ask the old citizens as to this, they "know nothing" about it. But the American party nominated James C. Steely for sheriff in 1856, and he received 71 votes in Middleport and 172 in the county. A Union League was organized in Middleport in 1861, and had a large membership. At the same time there existed an organization of either the "Knights of the Golden Circle," or "Sons of Liberty," which it is well known occasionally *met in the brush*.

We have an advertisement, dated June 11, 1851, for a meeting of the Independent Order of Turgeorareans, at their grand council room, in Middleport, on the first Saturday after the second Monday after the next *Gibbous Moon*. What this all meant we will leave the reader to *guess*.

#### CEMETERIES.

The first cemetery at Middleport was donated by Henry Troup, in E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 32, and adjoining the plat of the village. This is 100 feet square, and was fenced by James Egbert in 1845. The first person buried here was the wife of David Cantner, who was a carpenter engaged on the court-house. She died in 1846, and her grave was dug by Henry Kelner and James Egbert. Many of the old citizens are here buried, and among them Henry Troup. Another cemetery of one acre was conveyed by Samuel M. Ayres, in N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 32, in August, 1855, as heretofore stated. To this an addition was after-

ward made by Chamberlain and Lawrence, both of whom are buried here, with many other citizens. In this cemetery are many fine monuments.

The Oak Hill Cemetery was laid off in October, 1873, and comprises  $27\frac{3}{8}$  acres in S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 34, T. 27 N., R. 12 W., about two miles east of the city; Capt. George E. King, proprietor. It is on a high knoll, covered with oak timber, and a beautiful place. This is now used by the city and surrounding country for burial purposes. Much taste has been manifested in beautifying this cemetery, and it also contains several monuments.

#### ARTESIAN WELLS.

There are about 140 artesian wells within the corporate limits of Watseka, and about 120 of these are flowing wells. The first well was sunk by Hon. M. Stanley, in 1857, at his residence, on elevated ground, but this did not flow. He sank another on lower ground, at his hotel, in 1860, and this also failed to flow. It was then supposed that flowing artesian water could not be procured in the city, and nothing further in that direction was done until 1865, when Drs. Fowler and Secrest tried the experiment at the southeast corner of the depot grounds, which also failed. The city council and several enterprising citizens, in order to have the thing more thoroughly tested, in the spring of 1870 pledged to George Platt and Adrian Egbert \$500 if they would procure a flowing well within the city, and a point near the northwest corner of block 28 was selected. After boring down 120 feet a very small flow was procured. They then sank a well for the Chicago, Danville & Vincennes Railroad Company, near their road, and just west of block 30, and at 140 feet in depth they procured a very large flow. The former well was then sunk by them eighteen feet deeper, and from which depth a very good flow was procured. This is known as the Town well, and is still flowing. From that time forward the number has steadily increased to the present time, and these wells are pretty evenly distributed, so that nearly every family can procure the water, which is but slightly mineral, cool, pure and healthful, and good for all culinary and domestic purposes, and also for running steam machinery. Having this large number of artesian wells makes Watseka the best watered country place in the state and remarkably healthful, and will also, in time, make it a manufacturing city, which, with the fact that it is the county-seat of one of the largest counties in the state, a good distributing point, free from near competition, and where cheap fuel can be had, will eventually make it a large and prosperous city.

## BIOGRAPHICAL.

Under this head we propose to give extended biographies or personal sketches of a large number of the leading citizens of Watseka and vicinity,—not only of early settlers, but also of the more modern. Many of them have already been mentioned in the preceding pages, but we think it will add vastly to the value of the work as a book of reference, and as a basis for the future historian, to give this department the most minute detail. As far as practicable they have been arranged in chronological order, or rather in the order of coming to the township or county.

George Courtright, merchant, Watseka, is one of the first settlers of Iroquois county, who was born October 11, 1811, in New Jersey, near the Delaware river, and is the son of Jacob Courtright, who was engaged in farming and milling. Mr. Courtright remained in New Jersey until he was about four years of age, when with his parents he moved to Ohio, and located on a farm in Coshocton county, they being among the early settlers of that locality. Here Mr. Courtright's father died when he was about nine years of age, leaving a wife and four children in poor circumstances. Mr. Courtright was then placed in the hands of his brother, and there remained in Coshocton county until about 1827 or 1828, when he removed to Fountain county, Indiana, and there remained until 1830, when he started, in company with two brothers and John H. Miller, who are all dead, to Illinois, and on April 2, 1830, located at Bunkum, Iroquois county. Here Mr. Courtright began to break the prairie with five yoke of oxen. In 1830 he made a trip to Chicago for Gurdon S. Hubbard. He took one wagon with three yoke of oxen, and one cart with two yoke of oxen, loaded with furs, in company with a Frenchman and five or six Indians for an escort. The trip was long and tedious, they being without anything to eat for two days. At the Calumet river they had to put the furs on their heads and thus carry them across, as the river was too high. In making the trip it took them about eight days. This was, perhaps, the first trip ever made by a white man to Chicago from Iroquois county. Mr. Courtright in being with the Indians so much was able to speak their language. He was recognized in his boyhood days as the stoutest lad in the neighborhood. When coming from Indiana to Illinois the wagon often mired; Mr. Courtright would take a barrel of flour out of the wagon, and carry it to terra-firma. He was known to be a fine ox-driver. Mr. Courtright has been married three times: first, October, 1833, to Agnes Newcomb, of Ohio, who came to the county in 1830. They were married near Bunkum,



Iroquois county, and this was the first marriage in Iroquois county. He had to go to Danville to get a license, which took three days. She died about 1846, and is buried near Bunkum. Mr. Courtright's second wife was Huldý McGee, and his present wife is Katherine McCruhen, who was born in Ireland. By these three marriages he is the father of four children, three by his first wife and one by the third. He had one son in the late civil war, Joseph, who enlisted in Co. I, 113th Ill. Vol. Inf.

Jesse Moore, farmer, Woodland, was born in Adams county, Ohio, August 21, 1804, and is the son of John S. and Nancy (Edwards) Moore. His father was a farmer, having moved to Adams county, Ohio, about 1800, where he married and raised a family of eleven children. Mr. Moore, the subject of this sketch, was married in Adams county, in 1827, to Miss Latishia Downing. In 1831 Mr. Moore, with his wife, two children, father and two sons started from Adams county in a wagon drawn by four yoke of oxen. They came as far as the Wabash, and there remained but a short time, and in April, 1831, arrived in Iroquois county. They located on 200 acres of land in Belmont township, and here Mr. Moore has been a resident ever since. At that time the country was very wild, and plenty of Indians and wild game abounded. Here, about 1842, the Methodists erected the first church on Mr. Moore's place, he being a strong Methodist. Mr. Moore donated the land for the church, and for this act the people permitted Mr. Moore to name the church, which he called Bellemont. He had been reading a book and found this word, and he so named the church. The church was built of hewn logs, and was in size 26×36 feet, lap shingles, chimney in the middle, and two windows on each side. The entrance was on the south side. Mr. Moore has been a member of the M. E. church for the last fifty-two years. He had one son in the late war, Esera R., who enlisted in Co. A, 76th Ill. Vol. Inf. He was a brave soldier, and participated in the marches and battles of his regiment.

William S. Moore, retired, Watseka, was born in Adams county, Ohio, December 20, 1809. He remained in Adams county until 1831, when with his parents he came to Illinois, and located in Belmont township, Iroquois county, where he has been a resident ever since. Mr. Moore was married in Indiana, in 1834, to Miss Eliza J. Flemming, of Ohio. She died in 1845, and he was then married to Miss Asenath Lambert, of Ohio. Mr. Moore followed farming until 1868, when he moved to Watseka, where he has been engaged in the stock and grain business. He had one son, two sons-in-law and seven nephews in the late civil war. His son, Jasper N., enlisted in Co. C, 51st Ill. Vol. Inf., when he

was not quite eighteen years of age. He was a brave soldier and did good duty, participating in a number of prominent battles. He was taken prisoner at Chickamauga, and was sent to Libby prison, thence to the Danville prison near Richmond, Virginia. He remained a prisoner seven months and twelve days, and was almost starved to death. He was exchanged, and soon after died, May 8, 1864.

James H. Axtell, lumber merchant, Woodland, is one of the old settlers and highly respected business men. He was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, June 27, 1823, and is the son of John and Polly (Vennum) Axtell, who, in 1833, with a family of five children, emigrated west to Illinois, and located two and a half miles north of Milford, Iroquois county. Here the subject of this sketch grew into manhood, farming in the summer time, and in the winter attending the district school. He was also engaged in herding cattle, and driving them from this county to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He states that he has herded cattle on the grounds on which the Chicago Exposition now stands. Mr. Axtell's first purchase in land was 80 acres, for which he paid one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. From that he managed well, and to-day he is one of the successful farmers of the vicinity. Mr. Axtell was married, in Milford township, to Miss Eliza Gilbert, and by this union they have one child, a daughter. In November, 1877, Mr. Axtell commenced the lumber business in Woodland, and to-day he owns and conducts a first-class lumber yard. Both his father and mother died in Iroquois county.

Alexander Wilson, farmer, Watseka, was born in Mercer county, Pennsylvania, December 25, 1806, and is the son of Francis and Priscilla Wilson, natives of Ireland and Scotland respectively. Mr. Wilson remained in his native county until he was about seven years of age, when with his parents he moved to Chillicothe, Ohio, where he remained some two years. He then went to Champaign county, Ohio, where he remained until 1833. While a resident of Champaign county he was married, in 1827, to Miss Phoebe Cary, of Ohio. In 1833, with wife and three children, he moved to Illinois and located in Belmont township. He has held the office of justice of the peace eight years. He united the first parties married in Belmont township in 1835. They were John Hudson and Sallie Ann Longshore, and James Longshore and Deborah Hudson. Both couples were married at the same time. Mr. Wilson also operated the first tannery in Iroquois county. He was a resident of Texas some four years. In 1850 he started for California seeking gold, but returned in 1851. He had in the late war one son, William, who enlisted in Co. A, 76th Ill. Vol. Inf. He was a brave soldier and did good duty. He died in service at Vicksburg, Mississippi, in 1863.

Mrs. Rebecca Gray, Watseka, is the widow of the late John Gray, who was born in Warren county, Ohio, October 31, 1816. From there Mr. Gray moved to Iroquois county, between the years 1832 and 1835, and located in Milford township. Here he was married to Miss Rebecca Stanley, June 28, 1838, who was born in Clinton county, Ohio, November 11, 1817, and came west with her parents in 1830, and located in Milford township. After their marriage they located on a farm in Milford township, where he engaged in farming until 1876, when he moved his family to the present homestead. Here he died, April 4, 1876, leaving a wife and seven children; and thus passed away one of Iroquois county's honored and respected old citizens.

John Hudson, farmer, Watseka, was born in Sussex county, Delaware, November 6, 1814, and is the son of John and Mary (Williams) Hudson. In 1834 they, with six children, started west with a team and wagon, and finally reached Rob Roy, Indiana, where they remained a short time, and then pushed on to Iroquois county, Illinois, and located in Belmont township, where the Longshore graveyard is. Here Mr. Hudson died in 1834, and was buried in the Longshore graveyard, being the first one interred in that cemetery. John Hudson has been engaged principally in farming since he has been a resident here. He made a trip to California seeking gold. He was married in December, 1835, in Belmont township, to Miss Sallie Ann Longshore, at the same time his sister Deborah was married to James Longshore. These were the first marriages in Belmont township. They were married by Alexander Wilson. Mr. Hudson states that he helped to build Mr. Stanley's residence, which was the first built in Watseka. Mr. Hudson's first wife died in 1836. He subsequently married Eliza Wagoner, and she also died. The third time he was married to Mrs. Ann Briley, who is now deceased. His present wife was Rebecca Horner. They have one child, a son, William H., who was born on the farm December 16, 1855. Mr. Hudson has held several offices of public trust in Belmont township: school treasurer some ten or twelve years, supervisor one term, and constable. He was also postmaster at Milford. He moved to his present home in 1855.

Mary A. Troup, Watseka, is the widow of the late Henry Troup, who was born in Pennsylvania about 1800. From his native state, with his family, he came west to Ohio, and located in Canton, Stark county, where they were engaged in keeping a hotel. From there they went to Manchester, Ohio, and here, in 1834, he married Mary Ann Little, who was born in Columbus county, Ohio, in 1814. After this they remained in Manchester some four or five years, and while a resident



there Mr. Troup was engaged in the mercantile business. In about 1838, with his family, he started for Illinois, and located in Middleport, Iroquois county, being the first settler in this vicinity. Then the country was very wild, and they camped the first night on the banks of the Iroquois River, in front of what is now Middleport. He erected a building, and after getting his goods,—which came from Pittsburgh by boat down the Ohio to the Wabash, and up the Wabash where they discharged the goods,—they were then teamed to Middleport. He had the first store here. Mr. Troup was an industrious man and won a host of friends, and had customers for miles and miles around him. Many are the old settlers who speak of buying their goods from Henry Troup. He was successful in life and had accumulated considerable property before his death. He died, April 8, 1859, respected and honored by his fellow-men, leaving a wife and five children. One son, Edward, in the late war enlisted in the 76th Ill. Vol. Inf., and was a brave soldier. He participated in the siege of Vicksburg, and afterward died in service at Jackson, Tennessee.

W. S. Kay, attorney-at-law, Watseka, is perhaps one of the best known and most highly respected attorneys of the Iroquois county bar. Mr. Kay was born near Greencastle, Indiana, October 31, 1831, and is the son of William R. and Ruth (Wright) Kay. William R. Kay was engaged in farming. He was born in Maryland. He moved from his native state to Pennsylvania, where he was engaged at his trade of glass-blowing and fur-dressing, in Pittsburgh. He went to Ohio and located on a farm near Cincinnati. In 1831 he and his wife were visiting in the state of Indiana, and it was during that time that Mr. Kay (W. S.) was born, and they returned to Ohio. In 1835 or 1836, they started from the farm in Ohio for Iroquois county, Illinois, where Mrs. Kay's father was. They came by steamboat down the Ohio, and then came up the Wabash river and stopped at Perrysville, Indiana. Mr. William Kay made a trip to Iroquois county, and not liking the situation of the country returned to Perrysville and built a steam saw-mill below that place. Here he died with milk sickness in 1837, leaving the family in very poor circumstances. The family then came to Iroquois county and lived with Grandfather Wright, who at that time was living five miles south of Onarga. Mr. W. S. Kay was placed in a home with Thomas Vennum, where he remained until he was about fourteen years of age. At sixteen years of age he began to teach school, and taught three or four years in Iroquois and Ogle counties. Mr. Kay received a common school education at Milford, and was a student for one term at the Asbury University, of Greencastle, Indiana. In 1853 or 1854 he moved to Middleport, where he taught school for

some three years. He also held the office of constable for several years. He was appointed deputy sheriff of Iroquois county, under James H. Karr, and was afterward made sheriff by Mr. Karr, who retired from office. Mr. Kay was admitted to practice law in about 1856, and was a partner in the law firm of Fletcher & Kay for some three years. In 1864 the law firm of Blades & Kay was formed; from that the law firm of Blades, Kay & Evans emanated. This firm, perhaps, was the strongest law firm of the Iroquois county bar. Mr. Kay was married July, 1852, to Susanna Critchfield, of Ohio, by whom they had one child, deceased. Mrs. Kay died in 1855. He married the second time to Lavonia Burlingame, of New York. They have two children. Mr. Kay is a democrat in politics. His mother married twice, her second husband being the Hon. Isaac Courtright. She died with the cholera in 1854.

James W. Kay, real estate agent, Watseka, was born at Smith's Point, Onarga township, Iroquois county, Illinois, February 26, 1838, and is the son of William R. and Ruth (Wright) Kay. When Mr. Kay was very young his father died, and he was placed in a home with his sister until his mother was married to the Hon. Isaac Courtright. He then went to live with them in Texas, Iroquois county, where he remained until he was about sixteen years of age. He then went to live with his grandfather Wright, where he remained some eighteen months, and from there he went to Middleport, where he was engaged in attending school about one year. He then returned to the farm. In 1856 we find him hauling cord-wood for the Illinois Central railroad. Soon after he had the ague, which he had some fifteen months. In 1857 and 1858 he was in Iowa. He returned to Middleport. In 1858 he was appointed deputy sheriff under James H. Karr. In 1859 he made a trip to Missouri to see his relatives; then made a trip across the Rocky mountains prospecting for gold. In 1860 he was engaged in writing in the court house for Thomas Vennum. In 1861, during the late civil war, when Missouri was having a great deal of trouble, and during the battle of Lexington, Missouri, near his grandfather Wright's, Mr. Kay made the trip there and brought the old people back to Iroquois county. In July, 1862, Mr. Kay enlisted in Co. A, 76th Ill. Vol. Inf. He did good duty and made a brave soldier. He participated in some very hard-fought battles: the siege of Vicksburg, capture of Mobile, etc. He was mustered out July, 1865, when he returned to Iroquois county, when he was nominated and elected to the office of county clerk by the republican party. He served faithfully for one term. From that time Mr. Kay has been engaged in speculating in real estate, and to-day ranks as one of the successful

men of Iroquois county—owning 1,200 acres of land. Mr. Kay is a republican in politics, and a member of the M. E. church. He married twice. His first wife was Mrs. Emily C. Campbell, now deceased. His present wife was Adeline Ellingwood. They have three children.

Judge Samuel Williams, president of the First National bank of Watseka, Woodland, is a fair example of what may be attained by perseverance, industry and energy. He was born July 11, 1820, in Adams county, Ohio, and is the son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Swim) Williams. His mother was born in Ohio and his father in Maryland. Thomas Williams moved from Maryland with his parents and located on a farm in Adams county, Ohio, when he was four years of age. Here he remained until 1835, when, with his family, he moved to Illinois and located in Winnebago county. At that time there were but two houses in Rockford. Here they remained until 1842, when they moved to Iroquois county and located in Belmont township. The subject of this sketch, then quite poor, commenced working at the carpenter trade, in which he was engaged for some twenty years. About 1842 he purchased 120 acres of land, part of which is where Woodland stands. This land he promised to pay for in cattle. It was his first purchase of land. From the 120 acres, by his industry and energy he owns over 1,000 acres of land, which consists of one of the best improved stock-farms in Iroquois county. Besides Judge Williams being engaged in the stock business, he in 1878 erected a first-class creamery at Woodland, size 30 x 55, two stories high. He invested in the building and cows some \$7,000. This creamery is conducted by Judge Williams and two sons: George M. and John S., who are meeting with good success. In 1870, at the organization of the First National bank of Watseka, Mr. Williams was made president, which position he has held ever since. The First National bank is one of the most prominent institutions in eastern Illinois, and the people of Iroquois county are proud of such an institution. It is one of the safest banks in Illinois. Judge Williams has held several offices of public trust. In 1861 he was elected judge of Iroquois county, which office he filled for one term, proving himself a gentleman of acknowledged ability. He was elected first supervisor of Belmont township, and this office he held for some six or seven years. He also held the office of justice of the peace for a number of years. Judge Williams' political views were formerly democratic, but since the passage of the Nebraska bill he has been a republican. For some time he has not taken any active part in politics. He is a member of the M. E. church, of which he has been a member since



1840. Judge Williams was married in 1846 to Miss Catharine Body of Pennsylvania, who emigrated to Iroquois about 1838. By this union they have four children. Judge Williams' father was born January 15, 1797, and died August 7, 1857.

J. B. Moore, farmer, Watseka, was born in Iroquois county, Illinois, on section 10, in Belmont township, August 5, 1842, and is the son of John B. Moore, who was born in Adams county, Ohio. John Moore was married in Warren county, Indiana, to Sarah Ann Fleming, and in 1831 they came to Iroquois county and located south of the present homestead; from there they moved to the present farm, where he made the principal improvements—having planted the evergreen trees in front of the residence some nineteen years ago. By hard work and good management he became the owner of 400 acres of land at his death, which occurred November 20, 1870, he being fifty-four years of age. Mr. J. B. Moore, the subject of this sketch, was married in Warren county, Indiana, to Miss Sarah M. Frame, of Indiana, and they have six children. Mr. Moore has held several offices of public trust: school director and township clerk. He is a republican in politics. He had two brothers in the late war: Macajah and Fleming R.; both did good service. Macajah died at Mobile in 1865.

Charles Sherman, retired, Watseka, was born in Windsor, Vermont, February 24, 1816, and is the son of Samuel and Abigail (Squire) Sherman. His mother was a native of Connecticut, and his father of Massachusetts; they were married in Vermont. Mr. Sherman was born on his father's farm. In 1836 they came west to Milwaukee, Wis., where they remained but four weeks, and in 1838 came to Chicago, Ill., then a very small place. Here Mr. Sherman remained until 1842, clerking in a store where the Tremont House now stands. In 1842 he came to Iroquois county and located at Bunkum, and entered the mercantile business. In 1849 he went to Middleport, and was engaged in the mercantile business about four years, when he returned to Bunkum; he remained at the latter place until 1861, when he moved to Watseka. When Mr. Sherman first came to Illinois, he located 300 acres of land where the town of Evanston now stands. He held it a short time and sold it with but little gain. Mr. Sherman was married December, 1844, to Miss Nancy White, of Butler county, Ohio, a daughter of A. White, an old settler of Bunkum, who kept one of the first hotels at that place. They have three children.

Daniel Fry, merchant, Watseka, the subject of this sketch, and whose portrait appears in this work, is one of the old settlers and



Saml. Fry

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ex-county officers of Iroquois county. He was born December 8, 1827, in Coshocton county, Ohio, and is the son of Abraham and Catharine (Deamude) Fry. His father was a native of Virginia, and his mother of the state of Maryland. His father in an early day moved to Ohio, where he was engaged in farming; and in 1843 he removed to Illinois and located in Iroquois, Iroquois county. Here young Daniel grew to man's estate, the earlier part of his life being spent with his father. In 1853 he was elected to the office of county clerk of Iroquois county, and on assuming the duties of the office he became a resident of Middleport, then the county seat; in 1857 he was reelected to a second term. These public favors were conferred upon him by the democratic party. In the discharge of his duties as a public officer, he acquitted himself in a very creditable manner. Mr. Fry is now one of the oldest merchants of Watseka, where he entered the mercantile trade in 1864, though he had also for two years been engaged in the business in Middleport. Since his residence in Watseka he has been honored with different offices, among others that of alderman, and in 1879 he was elected supervisor of Middleport township, which office he is still holding. In 1860 Mr. Fry was married to Miss Priscilla, daughter of Amos White; by this union they have three children.

Isaac W. Cast, superintendent of the County Poor Farm, Watseka, was born in Clinton county, Ohio, August 9, 1843, and is the son of Hiram and Ruth (Smith) Cast. Both parents were natives of Ohio. His grandfather was among the first settlers of Clinton county, Ohio. When but a babe, the subject of this sketch came to Illinois with his parents and located in Vermilion county, where he remained until he was about seven years of age. With his parents he then came to Iroquois county and located on Spring Creek, two and a half miles north of Jefferson Point, where he was brought up on the farm. His stepfather was a soldier in the late civil war, and enlisted in an Illinois cavalry company in 1862. He died when at home on a furlough in 1863. Mr. Cast, in 1875, was appointed superintendent of the Poor Farm, which office he is still filling, doing his work faithfully and giving entire satisfaction.

A. C. Johnson, farmer, Watseka, was born in Franklin county, Ohio, January 12, 1822, and is the son of Isaac and Nancy (Tucker) Johnson, both of whom were natives of Virginia. Isaac Johnson was a soldier of the war of 1812, and came to Ohio at an early day. The subject of this sketch was raised on the farm, and learned the trade of a carpenter. In 1843 he came to Illinois, and located in Belmont township. In the winter of 1843-4 he taught his first school in Illi-

nois in a log hut near Mr. Carlock's farm, this being one of the first schools in this neighborhood. He had an attendance of some twenty-six scholars, who came from a radius of some three miles. Mr. Johnson engaged in teaching school in the winter time, and in the summer months worked at the carpenter's trade. In 1849 he was married to Miss Mary A. Body. Mr. Johnson's last school was the Dixon school, in Milford township, which he taught in 1870. He has held several offices of public trust: justice of the peace, twelve years; assessor and school director, for twenty-five years. These offices he has filled with honor, and acquitted himself in a very creditable manner. 'Squire Johnson's political opinions are republican. He is a member of the United Brethren church, of which he has been a member some thirty years. He has lived on the present farm since 1850. He is the father of ten children.

John Reader, farmer, Watseka, was born in Cambridgeshire, England, May 27, 1819, and is the son of Samuel Reader, who was a brick-mason and contractor. At fifteen years of age the subject of this sketch embarked at London on board of a ship bound for America, to seek his fortune in a strange land. On the voyage he made himself useful by ministering to the wants of sick passengers, from one of whom he received three shillings, this making five shillings that he had on landing in America. He first stopped in Albany, New York, where he remained a short time working at odd jobs to earn an honest penny; from there he went to Green Bush, thence to Cheatham, thence to Rochester, New York, where he began to learn the trade of a shoemaker. He served an apprenticeship of three years, and then worked at his trade there until 1843, when he came west to Illinois and located in Chicago. Here he remained until 1844, when he came to Iroquois county and located in Milford, and commenced to work at his trade. He commenced life in Iroquois county with only five dollars in cash. In 1847 he went on a farm on Pike creek; there he remained until 1849, when he moved to Middleport, where he worked at his trade about a year. From there he moved on the farm now owned by Mrs. Gray. In 1857 he went to Texas, where he engaged in the cattle business until 1860, when he returned to Iroquois county and located on his present homestead. Mr. Reader was for about four years a resident of Watseka. He built a great many buildings in that city, and erected the present opera building for a woolen mill. He owns 700 acres of land, and ranks as one of the leading successful farmers of Iroquois county. He was married in Rochester, in 1843, to Miss Ann Lavell, of Ireland, and they have four children.

J. G. Joiner, attorney-at-law, Watseka, was born in Windsor county,

Vermont, October 9, 1815, and is the son of Solomon and Mary (Moore) Joiner. In 1838 Mr. Joiner came west from his native state to Indiana, and located in Warren county. In 1845 he was admitted to practice law in Indiana. In the same year he came to Middleport, Iroquois county, and began the practice of law, and to-day is the oldest practicing attorney at the Iroquois county bar.

Joseph W. Kay, justice of the peace, Watseka, was born in Ohio, February 26, 1836, and is the son of William R. and Ruth (Wright) Kay. After the death of his father he came to Iroquois county, and was placed in the hands of his grandfather, Jonathan Wright, where he remained for a number of years. He was engaged in farming, and after receiving a common-school education, he began to teach, in which profession he was engaged for about two years. In February, 1855, he went to California seeking gold, and there remained within two months of ten years. While there he was engaged with a company in a claim on the American river. He was flooded out, and all lost their investments and labor. Mr. Kay, in 1861, enlisted in Co. A, 2d Cal. Vol. Inf., and served three years fighting the Indians. He traveled over Washington territory, Oregon and California; and was engaged in fighting the Modoc Indians. In 1864 Mr. Kay returned to Iroquois county, and commenced the study of law. In 1876 he was admitted to the bar, and in 1873 was elected police magistrate. He has also held the office of coroner of Iroquois county for twenty-seven years and constable eight years. In these offices Mr. Kay has given entire satisfaction. He is a republican in politics. He was married in 1865 to Miss Sarah Burlingame, of New York.

Thomas L. West, farmer, Watseka, was born in Sussex county, Delaware, May 30, 1824, and is the son of David and Elizabeth (Hudson) West. In 1834 they moved west to Indiana and located in Fountain county, where Thomas remained until 1847, when he moved to Illinois and located in Belmont township, Iroquois county. He first entered 80 acres of land south of his present farm. In 1849 he went to California, gold seeking, and remained two years, when he returned to Iroquois county and settled on his present homestead. Mr. West was married, in 1852, to Miss Sarah Turrell, who died shortly after their marriage. He afterward was married to Miss Mary Ellen Longshore. He is the father of ten children: one by his first wife and nine by his present wife. Mr. West is a republican in politics.

John L. Donovan, banker, Watseka, whose portrait appears in this work, was born in Mason county, Kentucky, August 27, 1824, and is the son of Joseph A. and Elizabeth (Hannah) Donovan, both of whom were born in Lewis county, Kentucky. His father was a farmer, at which



business John L. was engaged during early manhood. In 1834, when yet a child, he was brought to Vermilion county, Illinois, whither his parents moved. They remained there until 1841, and then removed to Clark county, Illinois, where they remained until 1846, and again removed, this time to Rock Creek, Will county, Illinois, where they resided about two years, and then moved to Iroquois county in 1848, this proving to be the final move of his parents. His father bought what was known then and since as the Buckhorn tavern, where the village of Donovan, in Beaver township, now stands. Here they set out in farming, which his father continued until his death, which occurred in 1860, at the age of sixty-one years. His mother is still living on the old homestead, and is in her eighty-fifth year. At the date of their moving to Iroquois county, John L. had grown to manhood, and in looking for a favorable opportunity to engage in business on his own account, he secured the contract for carrying the United States mail between Joliet, Will county, and Danville, Vermilion county, Illinois. This he continued about two years, at which he saved about \$500, with which, in 1850, he engaged in the mercantile business in Bunkum (now Iroquois), Iroquois county, continuing about one year. While there he was married to Miss Anna H. Bradford, of York state. Closing out his business in Bunkum, they engaged in farming near the old Buckhorn farm; but in 1855 they again returned to Bunkum, where Mr. Donovan resumed the mercantile business, in which he remained engaged until 1858, and then again returned to farming. In 1859 he was elected, by the republican party, treasurer of Iroquois county, which office he held one term. In 1859 he moved to Middleport, and in 1860 to Watseka, and the same year became interested in the mercantile business in Sheldon. In 1862 he removed his stock of goods to Watseka, and resumed trade in company with Decatur Morgan and William M. Coney. This firm continued business about seven months, when Mr. Donovan reöpened a store at Sheldon and one at Bunkum, both of which he managed until 1865. He was then engaged very extensively in the cattle trade. In March, 1868, he began the banking business in Watseka, in company with George A. Woodford and Hon. Thomas Vennum, under the firm name of Donovan, Woodford & Co. They continued to do a general banking business until 1874, when they quit business. In 1876, in company with Hon. Thomas Vennum, he again began a general banking business at Milford, Iroquois county, where they still continue to do a business that is an honor to themselves and a credit to the county. Though doing business in Milford, Mr. Donovan still continues to reside in Watseka. In 1877 the people of Belmont township elected him supervisor, in which capacity he has served to the satisfaction of all

interested. Besides the business enterprises above mentioned, in which Mr. Donovan has been interested, he has been engaged in many others, important both to himself and the public, as many of the thrifty and growing villages of Iroquois county owe their origin and growth to his enterprise. In all movements resulting in the general welfare of the public he has taken an active part; and though he began business at carrying the United States mail, poor and dependent upon his own energies and resources, he is now one of the wealthy class of citizens of Iroquois county, and the possessor of an honorable name and reputation, which are not always retained in the accumulation of wealth.

George West, farmer, Watseka, was born in Champaign county, Ohio, May 29, 1819, and is the son of John and Azuga (Wilson) West. His mother was a native of Ohio, and his father of Georgia. Azuga West was a soldier of the war of 1812, under Gen. Harrison. George West's grandfather, Basil West, was one of the party that threw the tea into the Boston harbor. The subject of this sketch remained in Champaign county until 1833, when, with his parents, he moved to Warren county, Indiana, where he remained a resident until 1840. Here he learned the wheelwright trade, under Z. & J. Parker, of Parker's patent water wheel. He came to Iroquois county and was engaged in helping on a mill at Milford. From that on he has built and helped to build some sixteen mills,—one at Milford, one at Bulvounia's Grove, one at Hickory Creek, one on the Dupage river, six on the Kishawaukee river, one near Beloit, Wis., one near Newburg, Ill., one at Pine Creek, Ind., and others. In May, 1848, he located at Texas, Iroquois county, and purchased the old Courtright mill, in partnership with J. Thomas. In 1855 and 1856 he built a new mill, and from that on he, in company with his brothers, did a large milling business at Texas, employing, on an average, twenty-seven men to operate the mill. The mill had four run of burrs and three run of saws. Here they were thriving, but the Indiana drainage law so stopped the flow of water that they had to quit business. In 1863 they sold the mill for \$2,000, the original cost being \$9,000. Mr. West helped to raise a company of soldiers for the late civil war—Co. I, 113th reg. Ill. Vol.; he was elected captain. The company was composed principally of men who worked for Mr. West in the mill. He did duty at Camp Hancock, guarding prisoners of war. In May, 1863, he resigned on account of ill health, and returned to Iroquois county, and has been a resident ever since. He moved on the present farm in 1865, where he has remained ever since. He is a republican in politics, and has held several offices of public trust: road commissioner two and a half years, and supervisor one term.

He was married in Iroquois county, in 1848, to Miss Rachel Earl, of Indiana. She died about October 5, 1849, and was the first internment in the Texas graveyard. Mr. West's second marriage was to Phoebe Ann Earl, and they have one child, a son, Thomas W.

John F. Vennum, Watseka, was born in Milford township, Iroquois county, Illinois, December 5, 1848, and is the son of Christopher C. Vennum, who made his home in Iroquois county, in an early day. Mr. Vennum was raised on the farm, where he remained until 1865. He enlisted in the army, and participated in the late civil war. He enlisted in Co. D, 150th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., as sergeant. This regiment did duty in the Southern states, and was mustered out at Griffin, Ga., in 1866, and finally discharged at Springfield, Ill. At the close of the war Mr. Vennum returned to the old homestead, where he was engaged in farming. From there he went to Milford and worked for Gilbert Vennum, in the lumber business, about two years. In 1875 he came to Watseka, and was engaged by Mr. I. C. Wade, as clerk, in the hardware and lumber business, and here he has remained ever since. In 1877 Mr. Vennum enlisted in the Watseka Rifles, Co. A, 9th battalion I. N. G., as sergeant. June 21, 1879, he was elected captain of this company, which position he now holds. In 1875 he was married to Miss Sarah Garner, of Iroquois county, by whom they have had two children, one living, Vene.

Richard Roberts, farmer, Watseka, was born in Bedford county, Virginia, April 1, 1827, and is the son of Alexander and Annie (Anderson) Roberts, both natives of Virginia. His father was a soldier of the war of 1812. Mr. Roberts was raised on the farm. When he was about two years of age, he moved with his parents to Montgomery county, Kentucky, where he remained until he was about seven years of age, when they moved to Ross county, Ohio. June 6, 1846, Mr. Roberts enlisted for one year in Co. C, 2d Ohio Vol. Inf., and participated in the Mexican war. The regiment was ordered first to Cincinnati, then to New Orleans, then to Brazos Island into Mexico, and then to Buena Vista. While Mr. Roberts was in the service he had the small-pox, from the effects of which he lost part of his eyesight. In 1847 he returned to Ohio. In 1848 he came to Iroquois county, Illinois, and located in Middleport township, where he has been a resident ever since, with the exception of two years when he was in California, gold seeking. He married Miss Mary Jane Eastburn, daughter of Carr and Ann Eastburn, both old settlers. They have five children. Mrs. Ann Eastburn is now living at Mr. Roberts', at the good old age of seventy-eight.

M. Stanley, liveryman, Watseka, was born in Watseka, Novem-



ber 23, 1848, and is the son of Micajah Stanley, the old pioneer settler of Iroquois county. He engaged in the livery business in 1874, and since then he has continued in the same business. He is now running the best livery stable in Watseka, and here may be found fine turnouts, and they can be had at reasonable prices. The stable is located in the rear of the Williams House. Mr. Stanley was married to Miss Jennie Edinger, by whom they have one child.

Samuel H. Porter, farmer, Watseka, was born in Middlesex county, Massachusetts, February 4, 1818; where he remained until he was sixteen years of age, engaged in farming. He then went to Connecticut, and thence to New York. In 1849 he came west to Illinois and located in Iroquois county, on Spring creek, where he remained some five or six years, when he moved his family to Middleport. Mr. Porter was made superintendent of the Poor Farm, and was the first manager of that institution. The building was formerly a log cabin, and from that it has steadily improved, until to-day it is one of the best county poor farms in eastern Illinois. Mr. Porter remained in office some nine years. He says the first two paupers sent to the farm were Ann Sapp and Margaret Scritchfield. Mr. Porter was married to Miss Lavina Barden, of New York, by whom he has had four children. Since Mr. Porter's connection with the Poor Farm, he has lived on his present homestead.

Rev. William Pentzer, minister and farmer, Woodland, was born November 25, 1819, in Clearfield county, Pennsylvania, and is the son of Philip C. Pentzer, a farmer and a shoemaker by trade. When Mr. Pentzer was about seven years of age, he with his parents moved to Ohio and located in Columbiana county, where he remained until he was sixteen years of age. From there he moved to Wyandotte county in the same state, and there remained until he moved to Indiana. Here he first entered the field as a Methodist minister, and traveled in different parts of Indiana for four years. He preached in Parke, Tipton, Clinton and Howard two years, and in Jasper and Jay counties one year each; these, at that time, were comparatively new counties, and Mr. Pentzer made his trips on horseback, there being but few railroads in that part of the country. He came to Iroquois county and preached here some four years in the Belmont church, the first M. E. church in Iroquois county. He also preached at Middleport, and returned to Indiana and remained there two years; when he received a call and returned to Iroquois county, where he remained four years. He then went to Clark county, and there remained eight years at Westfield, when he returned to Iroquois county, and here is now engaged with the American Tract Society.

He is living on his farm in Belmont township. Mr. Pentzer was married to Miss Sarah Ann Sexton, of Ohio; they have had two children, a son and a daughter. The daughter died in 1860 with diphtheria, aged four years and five months. The son, Orrin Wesley, is now engaged in teaching school, and is a graduate of the Westfield College.

Amos White, deceased, was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, February 27, 1811, and was the son of Amos White, an Ohio farmer. The subject of this sketch was born on his father's farm, where he remained but a short time, when, with his parents, he moved to Butler county. Here he was married in 1832 to Rebecca Cannedy, who was born in Butler county, Ohio, April 19, 1812. About 1835 they moved to Benton county, Indiana, where he became a very prominent man and was elected county judge. Here Mr. White, who was one of the early settlers, was engaged in farming. They remained in Benton county until 1849, when they moved to Iroquois county, Illinois, and located near Milford, on 400 acres of land. He was engaged in farming and stock-raising up to the time of his death, which occurred April 28, 1862. Thus passed away one of the old settlers of the county, a man that was beloved for his kindness by every one. He left a wife and five children. In 1864 Mrs. White moved to Watseka, where she has been a resident ever since.

G. W. Parker, merchant and farmer, Watseka, was born in Clinton county, Indiana, in 1842, and is the son of Daniel Parker, who was born in Bordentown, New Jersey, in 1809, and who, with his parents, moved to Ohio when he was about six years of age. In Ohio he was married to Lucy Parker, of Cincinnati. In about 1830 he moved to Indiana, and while a resident there was sheriff of Clinton county. In 1849 he, with his wife and three children, came to Illinois and located in Middleport, where he was engaged in the mercantile business. In 1859 D. Parker & Son commenced the erection of the building now occupied by the "Iroquois County Times." This they finished at a cost of about \$2,300, and commenced business in 1860 in dry goods and general merchandise. This being the first store of the kind opened in Watseka, these gentlemen did an extensive business in the dry goods, grain and stock business until the death of Daniel Parker, which occurred September 11, 1877. Thus passed away one of the most prominent and highly respected business men of Iroquois county. He had held several offices of public trust; was associate judge of Iroquois county, and was a member of the board of supervisors for about ten years. He was a man that began life poor, but with industry and good management he had accumulated in 1849 a fortune amounting to some \$20,000. This amount he invested in a stock of goods and



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loaded them on a steamboat bound for Iowa. The steamboat sank at Vincennes, and he lost his entire stock, with no insurance. He then came to Iroquois county, a poor man. He entered business on a very small capital, but with his good management he had accumulated at his death property valued at \$40,000. Mr. G. W. Parker received his principal education at the Albany University, from which he graduated in 1860. He practiced law for a short period, but most of his time has been engaged in the mercantile business as a partner of his father. He is largely engaged in farming. In 1878 he commenced the mercantile business in Chebanse, where he is now carrying on business, but in the meantime making Watseka his home. Mr. Parker has held several offices of public trust. He has been supervisor of Middleport for one term, and in 1864 was a member of the state legislature. Mr. Parker married Miss Nellie Hamilton, of Green county, New York. They have two children.

Judge Franklin Blades, circuit judge, Watseka, is one of the best known and most highly respected men of Iroquois county. He was born in Rush county, of the Hoosier state, November 29, 1830, and is the son of James and Mary (Harcourt) Blades. His father was a native of South Carolina, and was a practicing physician. At an early day he came to Indiana, where he died, near Indianapolis, in 1846. Judge Blades, the subject of this sketch, was raised on the farm, where he received a common-school education at the district school. In 1852 he graduated from the Rush Medical College, of Chicago. In 1854 he was a student of the Jefferson Medical College, of Philadelphia. In 1851 he came to Iroquois county, where he practiced medicine until 1858. In 1856 he was connected with the publishing of the "Iroquois County Republican," and the same year was elected a member of the Illinois legislature. In 1857 he was admitted to practice law at the Illinois state bar. In 1862 he was commissioned surgeon of the Ill. Vol. Inf., and served until 1864. In 1877 Mr. Blades was elected circuit judge, and reelected in 1879. Judge Blades was married, in 1854, to Miss Jennie King, of Ohio. They have three children.

J. A. Graham, real estate, Watseka, was born in Augusta county, Virginia, November 23, 1823, and is the son of James C. and Isabella (Henderson) Graham. His father was a farmer, and here Mr. Graham remained, in his native county, until he was about ten years of age, at which time, with his parents, he moved to Montgomery county, Indiana, on a farm. From the farm, our subject entered a printing office in Crawfordsville, where he learned his trade as a printer. In 1847 and 1848 he was engaged in publishing the "Danville Weekly News," at Danville, Indiana, and from there he went to Crawfordsville, where

he was engaged in publishing the "Indiana Christian Herald," since merged into the "Christian Herald," now published in Cincinnati, Ohio. He was also foreman of one of the leading newspapers published in Danville, Illinois. In January, 1851, Mr. Graham came to Middleport, and commenced the publication of the "Iroquois County Journal," the first newspaper published in the county. This paper was whig in politics, and started with a circulation of about three hundred subscribers. Mr. Graham was engaged in the publication of the "Journal" about three years, when he sold out to Scott & Keady, who immediately made it a democratic paper. Mr. Graham then moved to Janesville, Wisconsin, and was engaged on the "Janesville Weekly Gazette." He was also publishing the "Wisconsin Educational Journal," a leading monthly paper. Here he remained until 1856, when he returned to Middleport, and commenced the publication of the "Iroquois County Republican." The first issue was made in May, 1856. Mr. Graham continued the publication of this paper until after the November election, when he sold to Robertson & Sheward. In 1857 Mr. Graham was placed on the republican ticket for county clerk, but was defeated by Daniel Fry. At this time the whole of the republican ticket was defeated, but Mr. Graham ran ahead of his ticket. In 1858 and 1859 he was deputy sheriff and constable. In 1861 he volunteered in Co. F, 25th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., for three years. In January, 1862, he was discharged for disability, caused by typhoid fever. He returned to Middleport, where he has remained since, engaged in the real estate business. Mr. Graham has been assessor of Middleport township for ten years, and in this position has given entire satisfaction. He was married, in 1848, to Elizabeth Wilhite, of Hardin county, Kentucky.

Williams Brothers, proprietors of the Woodland Creamery, Woodland, commenced business in June, 1878, and to-day are manufacturing an article of butter that ranks with the leading creameries of Illinois. The building is a fine two-story brick, 36×40 feet, furnished with all the modern improvements for the manufacture of butter. It is run by steam power, and the whole building is heated by steam in the winter, and in the summer months the first story is kept cool by a pipe running the extent of the building, through which runs water obtained from an artesian well 108 feet deep. On the first floor is the engine room, and the next room is the one used for churning. Each churn holds sixty gallons, and is run by a steam engine of two-horse power. The firm of Williams Brothers has invested about \$7,000 in this business, and they own about 175 cows. They employ in the different departments about seventeen hands. In connection with their steam



power, they have erected an addition to the main building  $36 \times 15$  feet, which is used in grinding feed for the stock. The firm is composed of George M. and John S. Williams. George M. was born in Belmont township, Iroquois county, in 1852, and has been a resident in this vicinity all his life. He received a common-school education in the district school, and went to the Onarga College, where he received a commercial education. He was for several years previous to entering the present business, engaged in the stock business. John S. was also born in Belmont township, Iroquois county, in 1855, and received a full commercial education in the Onarga College, and was for a time engaged in the grain and lumber business. Neither of these gentlemen has ever been married.

Daniel W. Ayres, attorney-at-law, Watseka, was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, August 24, 1837, and is the son of Jessie B. and Sabra W. (Stathem) Ayres, both natives of New Jersey. They were married in New Jersey, and came over the Alleghany mountains in wagon to Pittsburgh, and then came down the Ohio river on a flat-boat to Cincinnati, and located on a farm in Hamilton county, where they remained until 1852, when they started for Illinois by wagon, and came to Iroquois county and located at Bunkum. It is supposed they brought the first sofa to Iroquois county, and also brought one of the first Durham bulls. In Ohio Mr. Kay, our subject, received his principal education. His brothers commenced the mercantile business in Bunkum. Mr. Ayres clerked for them for several years. He also operated a store for them at Morocco, Indiana. From the store he returned to the farm, and then commenced school teaching, which he followed for a number of years. His first school teaching was in Martin township, where he received some \$20 per month. He taught the first school in the district, three miles east of Watseka. He also taught school in Bunkum and Sheldon. In 1863 he went to the oil regions of Pennsylvania, where he was engaged in prospecting for oil, where he remained until 1865, when he returned to the farm and laid off an addition to Sheldon. Mr. Ayres was admitted to practice law at the Illinois bar in 1870. He was justice of the peace for several years at Sheldon. In 1874 he moved to Watseka and began the practice of law. In 1874 the firm of Ayres & Holland was formed, which is among the leading law firms of the Iroquois county bar. Mr. Ayres has held several offices of public trust. In April, 1877, he was appointed master-in-chancery by Judge Blades. He is a liberal in politics, but at one time was a strong republican. Mr. Ayres was married, in 1863, to Miss Maria Symson, who was born near Rochester, New York. She was for a while engaged in teaching school at Mid-

dleport and Sheldon. They have two children: Arthur W. and Harry T.

C. Secrest, Watseka, was born in Davidson county, North Carolina, May 3, 1829, and is the son of Daniel and Elizabeth (Fouts) Secrest. They came to Indiana and located in Morgan county about 1832. In 1852 Dr. Secrest came to Iroquois county and stopped at Bunkum until 1853, when he came to Middleport. He then went to Chicago and entered the Rush Medical College, from which he graduated in 1854. He returned to Middleport and began the practice of medicine. He continued there until 1859, when he moved to Watseka, where he has remained ever since. While a resident in Middleport he was engaged with the drug firm of Secrest, Tillinghast & Co. Since his residence here, Dr. Secrest has held the offices of justice of the peace, town clerk, supervisor and representative. He was elected to the office of representative in 1876. This office he now fills. He was married to Martha Cleaver, daughter of A. Cleaver. They have one child.

B. F. Shankland, deputy county clerk, Watseka, was born in Warren county, Indiana, February 20, 1849, and is the son of Kendall and Amanda (Harris) Shankland, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Indiana. In 1853 his parents came to Illinois and located in what is now Prairie Green township, Iroquois county, where they still reside. There the early life of Mr. Shankland was spent. After fitting himself to enter college he became a student in the law department of the Michigan University of Ann Arbor, from which he graduated in 1874. Returning to Iroquois county, he continued the study of law under Judge M. B. Wright, and in the fall of 1874 was granted a diploma to practice at the Illinois bar. In 1875 he was the temperance candidate for city attorney of Watseka, to which office he was elected for a year term. In 1875 he also accepted the position of deputy county clerk, under Mr. Henry A. Butzow, where he is still engaged. Though Mr. Shankland is still a young man, he has already become well and favorably known among the best citizens of Iroquois county, among whom are to be found many gentlemen of both wealth and culture. His associates are of this class, which fact of itself establishes his standing and ability.

George W. James, farmer and liveryman, Watseka, was born in Warren county, Ohio, January 9, 1844, and is the son of Aaron H. James, who was born November 17, 1801. Aaron James came to Ohio at an early day, where he was engaged in farming. He was married in Ohio to Miss Phœbe Dunham, who was born October 10, 1807. They, with a family of seven children, in 1853, came to Illinois and

located in Iroquois county. There were about 80 acres of land improved and a log cabin standing on it, and they moved into the cabin and commenced farming. The present willow trees standing in front of the residence were planted by G. W. and W. D. James in 1862. Aaron H. James died April 2, 1878. Phoebe Dunham James died July 11, 1874. Thus passed away two of the old and highly respected citizens of Iroquois county, leaving five children. They had two sons in the late war. James enlisted in the 51st Ill. Vol. Inf., and served four years, participating in some of the most severe battles. He was a brave soldier and did good duty. He died March 6, 1870. Geo. W. enlisted in Co. A, 76th Ill. Vol. Inf., in 1862, and remained until the close of the war, doing good duty. He was married to Miss Hattie McNeir, of Indiana, and they have one child.

Stephen G. Bovie, attorney-at-law, Watseka, is one of the old and leading attorneys of the Iroquois county bar. He was born November 21, 1827, in Livingston county, New York, and is the son of John E. and Amy (Gardner) Bovie. His father was born in New York, where he was engaged in farming. Mr. Bovie's grandmother and grandfather lived to be nearly a hundred years of age. The subject of this sketch was born and raised on his father's farm, where he was engaged in farming, and in the winter months attended the district schools, where he received a common-school education. He began school-teaching, and taught school in Livingston and Monroe counties, New York. He was also reading law, and in the winter of 1851-2 he was admitted to practice law at the bar in Monroe county, New York. In 1853 he came west to Illinois and located at Middleport, Iroquois county, where he was engaged about one year in teaching school. He then commenced the practice of law. His circuit then embraced the counties of Kankakee, Grundy, La Salle, Will, Iroquois, Champaign and Ford. He traveled with the judges in the days of Abraham Lincoln and David Davis. Mr. Bovie became well acquainted with these gentlemen. Mr. Bovie is to-day one of the oldest attorneys of the Iroquois county bar. He was master-in-chancery for some five or six years. In this office he gave entire satisfaction. He is a republican in politics, and was a delegate to the Bloomington convention in 1856, when the republican party was organized, and he took an active part in the convention. Mr. Bovie was married in Monroe county, New York, in 1852, to Miss Julia A. Symson, of Monroe county, New York, daughter of Benjamin Symson, one of the old settlers of Monroe county.

L. Steely, merchant in the old town of Middleport, Watseka, was a business man of the once busy town of Middleport when it was the county seat of Iroquois. All its merchants have moved away or passed



beyond the shores of the unknown river with this one exception. L. Steely was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, December 4, 1819. His parents were David and M. (Carothers) Steely. When Mr. Steely was only six years old he moved to Pickaway county, and from there they moved to Tippecanoe county, Indiana. In La Fayette Mr. Steely was engaged in the mercantile business. In 1853 he came to Middleport and entered the mercantile business. He first hauled his goods by wagon from La Fayette. He carried on the mercantile business about four years, when he entered the saw-mill business, where he remained some sixteen years. From that he entered his present business. Mr. Steely is a strong greenbacker in politics. He was married, in Tippecanoe county, to Miss Mariah Ermy, by whom he had four children. He had one son in the late war, James M., who enlisted in the one hundred days' service. He was honorably mustered out. Mr. Steely's mother and father both died in Warren county, Indiana.

Samuel West, farmer, Watseka, was born in Champaign county, Ohio, June 6, 1821, and is the son of John and Azuga (Wilson) West. He was raised on the farm, and helped his father at the carpenter's trade. When young he moved with his parents to Warren county, Indiana. Mr. West learned the wheelwright trade under Z. and J. Parker. From Indiana he came to Illinois, and worked with his brother in erecting a mill at Bulvonias Grove, in Kankakee county. He remained with his brother until 1852, erecting mills at different points. In 1852 Mr. West went to California, gold-seeking, and there he remained until 1854. He returned to Iroquois county, and has remained a resident here ever since. He was married in Iroquois county, November 25, 1845, to Miss Susanna Rush, daughter of Samuel Rush. She was born in Pennsylvania, January 9, 1823, and came to Iroquois county about 1830. They have four children.

William Warren, merchant, Woodland, was born August 4, 1835, in Crawford county, Illinois, and is the son of Samuel S. Warren, who was one of the early settlers of Crawford county. When Mr. Warren was very young, he moved with his parents to Perrysville, Vermilion county, Indiana, where his father died. His mother married the second time. They came to Illinois, and located on a farm in Belmont township, and here our subject was engaged in farming until 1877, when he entered his present business in Woodland. He occupies a building 20×50 feet, two stories high, and is doing a general merchandise and grain business. Mr. Warren has held several offices of public trust in Belmont township: collector, commissioner of highways, and town clerk. In these offices he has given entire satisfaction. He had three brothers in the late war, two died in service. In December, 1878, Mr.

Warren was made postmaster of Woodland. This office he still holds. He is a republican in politics.

E. M. Amos, attorney-at-law, Watseka, was born May 1, 1851, in Warren county, Indiana. He removed with his parents from his native state in the winter of 1855, and settled in Iroquois county. He received the rudiments of his education seated on a rough oak board, in a still rougher school-house, erected by the joint efforts of some of the pioneers. At the age of twenty, resolving upon a more liberal education, he left the farm, where he had spent fifteen years of his life, and started to school. He spent some time at the Grand Prairie Seminary at Onarga, and afterward removed to the Northwestern University at Evanston, where he received his principal education. Returning home in 1874, he promptly commenced the study of law with A. J. Clark, of Sheldon, Illinois. He afterward removed to Watseka, and finished his law studies with T. B. Harris, state's attorney for Iroquois county, and was admitted to the bar January 4, 1878, by the supreme court at Springfield. In February, 1878, he formed a law partnership with H. C. Stearns, under the firm name of Stearns & Amos, which still exists. He is a genial gentleman, quiet and unobtrusive, a close student, loves books and literary pursuits, and is fond of military display, being a member of the I. N. G., and one of the finest rifle shots in the company. His father, Stephen S. Amos, is a native of West Virginia, and first visited this county before its organization. His uncle, Jesse Amos, was one of the first settlers of Iroquois county.

P. Johns, photograph artist, Watseka, was born in Clinton county, Ohio, July 9, 1839. With his parents he moved to Missouri, thence to Ohio, and thence to Indiana. From there, in 1855, he moved to Iroquois county, and located at Martinton. Here, in Iroquois county, he was engaged in teaching school, but learned the trade of a photograph artist under the superintendency of Mr. Weaver. In 1865 he went to Gilman, and commenced the photograph business, and from there to Bunkum, thence to Sheldon. In 1871 he returned to Watseka and built his present place of business.

Moses West, farmer, Watseka, is one of the prominent farmers of Iroquois county. He was born in Warren county, Indiana, May 4, 1834, and is the son of John and Azuga (Wilson) West. He remained a resident of Warren county until he was about twenty-two years of age, when, in 1856, he came to Iroquois county, and was engaged in the milling business with his brothers at Texas. Here he remained some five years, when he went west to Pike's Peak, seeking gold. He met with very poor success, and returned to Iroquois county, and has remained here ever since, engaged in farming. He moved to his

present farm in 1871, and is engaged in farming 300 acres of land. He was married, in Middleport township, to Miss Elizabeth J. Pinnes, of Iroquois county. She died, and he was married to his present wife, Miss Louisa Launaker, of Iroquois county. He is the father of five children; three by his first wife, and two by his present wife. Mr. West enlisted at the first call in the late civil war in Co. I, 20th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., but on account of being crippled in the left arm, was exempted.

William Brown, farmer, Watseka, is one of the leading and successful farmers of Iroquois county. He was born in Butler county, Ohio, December 27, 1827, and is the son of Joseph and Lucy (Johnson) Brown. His father was a native of Virginia, and was engaged in farming. William Brown was raised on the farm, and remained a resident of Butler county until he was three years of age, when, with his parents, he moved to Indiana. Here they remained a short time, when they returned to Ohio, where his mother died. His father remarried, and returned with his family to Indiana. Here our subject remained until 1856, when he moved to Iroquois county and rented a farm just opposite his present place. Here he remained until he built a log cabin west of his present residence, where he remained until he built the the present place, which is perhaps one of the finest homes in Iroquois county. When he came here the country was wild, with but little improvements. On his farm he has made all the improvements. He married, in Laporte county, Indiana, Miss Adaline Morrison, daughter of John P. Morrison. They have five children. Mr. Brown is a member of the Prairie Dell M. E. church.

The firm of Bishop & Laroche, pioneer furniture dealers of Iroquois county, Watseka, has been established since the year 1862. It is one of the largest, most reputable, and successful in Iroquois county, and holds a position for integrity in business above an average character. John H. Bishop was born in Windom county, Vermont, March 5, 1818. In his native county Mr. Bishop learned the trade of a cabinet-maker. From Vermont he moved to Massachusetts, where he remained until 1856, when he started west with his wife (formerly Elizabeth McColby, whom he married at Grafton, Vermont) and one child. They came to Illinois, and located in Iroquois county. They remained a short time at Onarga, and in the fall of 1856 moved to Middleport, where Mr. Bishop was engaged in contracting and building. He built a great many buildings in Middleport, among which may be mentioned the Presbyterian church, which was one of the first churches built in this vicinity. He also built the school-house at Middleport. Mr. Bishop has held several offices of public trust: alderman and city treasurer, in



which offices he has given entire satisfaction. Hypolite Laroch was born in Montreal, Canada, December 12, 1838. In Canada, with his father, he learned the trade of a cabinet and wagon-maker. In 1855 he came to Illinois, and located in Kankakee city, where he remained about nine months, and then came to Iroquois county in 1856, and located in Middleport. He commenced to work in a wagon-shop, and became owner of one of the leading shops in Middleport. He is now an alderman of Watseka. In 1862 the firm of Bishop & Laroch was formed. They remained in Middleport until 1863, and then moved their business to Watseka, into a building near Maj. Peter's book-store, where they remained until they erected their present shops, which are located on Main street, east of the First National Bank building, size 20×90 feet, two stories high. These gentlemen came to Iroquois county very poor, but with good health, knowing their trade, they went to work and succeeded. These gentlemen have had many years' experience in the furniture business, and by close application to the same in its various details, have been enabled to manufacture and buy at such figures as have enabled them to sell a fine quality of furniture at the most reasonable prices. They keep on hand a large stock of the different qualities and styles of all kinds of goods, from which a person in any station of life may select just what he wants. Besides furniture, these gentlemen are engaged in the undertaking business.

Peter C. Hoyt, justice of the peace, Watseka, was born in Greene county, New York, June 7, 1840, and is the son of Henry and Sallie (Conine) Hoyt, both natives of New York. His father was a blacksmith by trade, and was engaged also in farming. Mr. Hoyt was brought up on the farm. In about 1848, with his parents, he moved to Wayne county, New York, where they remained until 1856. His mother died in New York, September, 1855. In 1856, with his father and five children, he came west to Illinois and located in Texas, Iroquois county. In 1858 Mr. Hoyt commenced farming, working by the month in the summer time, and in the winter months attending school. In 1861 he enlisted in the late civil war, in Co. C, 51st Ill. Vol. Inf., as fifer. He did duty fourteen months, and on account of sickness was honorably discharged. He returned to Iroquois county and engaged in farming until 1875, when he came to Watseka and commenced the lumber business, in which he is still engaged. In 1877 Mr. Hoyt was elected to the office of justice of the peace. This office he now fills, and is giving entire satisfaction.

Alexander H. South, Watseka, was born in New Albany, Floyd county, Indiana, June 18, 1841, and is the son of Daniel and Rebecca (McCormack) South. His mother was a native of Kentucky, and his

father of Ohio. Mr. South remained in New Albany until 1856, when, with his parents, he moved to Illinois and located on a farm in Ash Grove, Iroquois county. Here his father died, in 1857, with congestive chills, leaving the family in poor circumstances. Mr. South remained on the farm until the breaking out of the late civil war, when he enlisted, August 4, 1861, as corporal in Co. F, 25th Ill. Vol. Inf., for three years. He participated in some of the most prominent battles of the war: Pea Ridge, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, etc. In a skirmish on June 14, 1864, he received a slight wound, and was sick but a short time. He commanded his company at Mission Ridge. From sergeant he was promoted to second sergeant, then orderly sergeant, and from this to second lieutenant of Co. F. He was transferred to Cos. G and K. He was detailed at one time to take charge of a pioneer corps. He was mustered out September, 1864, and returned to Iroquois county and farmed until 1868. In 1866 and 1867 he was tax collector of Ash Grove. In 1868 he was nominated and elected sheriff of Iroquois county by the republican party, and in 1870 and 1872 reelected to the same office. Here he won a host of friends and gave entire satisfaction, having proven himself honest and attentive to business. During Mr. South's term of office the man Martin Mera was taken from the jail and hung by a mob which overpowered Mr. South. Mr. South was a candidate for circuit clerk before the republican convention. He was unanimously nominated for sheriff in 1878, but was defeated for office. He has been alderman of the city of Watseka three years. He is a republican in politics, and ranks among the prominent ones of the party. Mr. South was married, October, 1866, at Wilmington, Ohio, to Miss Martha Orem, of Clinton county, Ohio. By this union they have had seven children, two deceased.

Thomas Vennum, banker, Watseka, was born on his father's farm in the Keystone state, Washington county, on December 25, 1833, and is the son of Christopher C. and Rosanna (Paul) Vennum, who were both natives of Pennsylvania. In 1835 the subject of this sketch, with his father and mother and two children, came west by steamboat down the Ohio river, and located on a farm in what is now known as Milford township, Iroquois county, Illinois. Here Mr. Vennum remained, farming in the summer, and in the winter months attending the district school of the period, which was the first step of his acquiring a complete education. In 1856 he was nominated and elected by the republican party to the office of circuit clerk of Iroquois county. He was nominated as a compromise over two other very prominent men of the republican party. He moved to Middleport, then the county seat, and entered

upon his duties as circuit clerk. Here he gained many friends, and in 1860 and 1864 was reelected to the same office. In 1870 he served the people one term with marked ability as representative. In 1864 he moved to Watseka, which has since been his home. In 1868, in company with John L. Donovan and George A. Woodford, he commenced the banking business in Watseka, the firm being known as Donovan, Woodford & Co., doing a general banking business until October, 1874. In 1874 Mr. Vennum went to Tennessee, and was engaged at Tracy City in managing mining and shipping coal. Here he remained until 1876, when he returned to Watseka. In 1876, in company with John L. Donovan, he again commenced the general banking business in Milford, where they are now conducting one of the leading banks of Iroquois county. While Mr. Vennum was a resident of Middleport he formed the company of the well known drug firm of H. A. Tillinghast & Co. They moved to Watseka, and the firm changed to Secrest, Tillinghast & Co., Mr. Vennum still being a silent partner. He continued in the drug business for a number of years. Mr. Vennum is a republican in politics. He was married, February, 1862, in Detroit, Michigan, to Miss L. A. Tuller, daughter of Harry Tuller, and by this union they have had five children, one deceased. Mr. Vennum's father died at Onarga in 1868, being sixty-three years of age. His mother died in 1846, at the age of thirty-six. Mr. Vennum has one brother and one sister living: William, now a resident of Texas; and Sarah, who lives in Iowa.

C. H. Palmer, deceased, was born in Moscow, New York, January 1, 1818, and there he resided eight years. His father, Dr. Asa R. Palmer, removed to Vermilion county, Indiana, and two years later to Danville, Illinois. At the age of twenty-five he graduated from the Wabash College, at Crawfordsville, Indiana, and that year began a theological course in Lane Theological Seminary, of Cincinnati, Ohio, from which he graduated in 1846. Rev. Lyman Beecher was at that time president of this college. He first preached in Coles county, Illinois, near Charleston, then a short time at Romney, Indiana, and in 1851 took charge of a church in Danville. He was married in 1852. Four years later he became a resident of Middleport and took charge of the Presbyterian church at that place, and remained its pastor until 1870. In 1872 he moved with his family to Deer Creek, Tazewell county, Illinois, preaching there until 1875. He then returned to Watseka, where he has since resided. He had, after his return, no church in charge, but preached occasionally in adjoining towns and neighboring counties. He died Monday, February 12, 1877, with heart disease. There never lived a more earnest christian or more generous, noble-hearted man



than Mr. Palmer, who commanded the admiration of all who knew him by his gentle disposition and exemplary conduct. His life was spent in ministering to the wants of those around him who needed assistance, and every year many a poor family received help and comfort at his hands. Mrs. Palmer and four children were left to mourn the untimely loss of a kind husband and father.

Stephen Cissna, farmer and stock-raiser, Watseka, was born in Chillicothe, Ross county, Ohio, February 9, 1815, and is the son of Stephen Cissna, who was a soldier in the war of 1812, under Gen. Hull, and received a wound in the right arm. He died when the subject of this sketch was about thirteen years of age. Mr. Cissna's grandfather, Stephen Cissna, and his four sons, were soldiers in the revolutionary war. At sixteen years of age Mr. Cissna commenced to learn the trade of a tanner in Chillicothe. From there he went to Clarksburg and Columbus, where he engaged in working at his trade. In 1836 he went to La Fayette, Indiana, and worked at his trade a short time. In 1837 he commenced farming in Warren county, Indiana, and from that he embarked in the mercantile business in Williamsport, Indiana, where he remained some five years. In 1856 Mr. Cissna came to Iroquois county, Illinois, and located in Pigeon Grove, on a farm of some 680 acres of land. Here he remained until 1867, when he moved to his present home, having purchased it from his brother, William Cissna, who had located here in 1865. This farm was improved by Mr. George King. Since Mr. Cissna's residence in Middleport township he has held several offices of trust. He was supervisor of the township for one term. He was married, April 13, 1848, in Williamsport, Indiana, to Miss Elizabeth Miller, daughter of E. W. Miller. She died August 2, 1858. Mr. Cissna was married to his present wife, Clara Hawk, daughter of Erastus Hawk, in 1864. He is the father of one child by his first wife.

Henry T. Skeels, Watseka, was born in Franklin county, Ohio, September 23, 1837, and is the son of Truman and Betsy B. (Wiswell) Skeels. His father was engaged in farming. When Mr. Skeels was about thirteen years of age, his father and mother both died, the same week, with typhoid fever, leaving an estate to be divided among the children. Mr. Skeels remained in his native county until he was nearly fifteen years old, when he went to Stark county, and from there to Illinois, and first stopped in Onarga, where he began the study of medicine. From that he was engaged as clerk in a general store. In 1861 he went to the army, where he was for a while in the quartermaster's department, and then clerk in the sutler's store. He remained in the army about eleven months, when he returned to Iroquois county. In

1862 he went to Middleport, where he served as deputy circuit clerk under Hon. Thos. Vennum, who was circuit clerk for a number of years. Here he came in contact with a great many men, and won a host of friends. In 1868 he was nominated and elected to the office of circuit clerk, by the republican party, by one of the largest majorities ever given to a candidate for office. During his term of office he gave entire satisfaction. In November, 1874, he entered the banking business, in company with J. Malsenbau, forming the firm of J. Malsenbau & Co. The Watseka bank did a general banking business, which continued until 1879, when it closed its business. Mr. Skeels was married in Middlebury, Vermont, to Helen M. Matthews, of Vermont, daughter of Darius Matthews. By this marriage they have two children: a son and a daughter.

L. N. Pittwood, physician, Watseka, is one of the pioneer physicians of Iroquois county. He was born in London, England, March 20, 1830. His parents are William and S. (Sanders) Pittwood, both natives of England. His father was a brewer in England. In 1838 Dr. Pittwood, with his parents, emigrated to America, and landed in New York city. They remained in New York state for about two and one-half years, when, in 1841, they came west to Illinois, and stopped in Chicago about two weeks. From there they went to St. Charles, Kane county. Here Dr. Pittwood received his education, and at nineteen years of age he began the study of medicine under Dr. George W. Richards, one of the leading physicians of St. Charles. In 1856 Dr. Pittwood commenced the study of medicine. In 1857 he came to Iroquois county and located at Gilman, where he began the practice of medicine, and remained in Gilman until 1859, when he came to Middleport, then the county seat of Iroquois county. From there he came to Watseka, which has been his home ever since. He is now the oldest practicing physician of Watseka, and perhaps of Iroquois county. Dr. Pittwood is a member of the Illinois Medical Society and the Iroquois Medical Association, of which latter he was vice-president. The Doctor has held several offices of public trust, that of school-director and alderman of Watseka. He has been married twice. His first wife was Miss Mariah Hookaway, of New York, now deceased; and his present wife was Rachel A. Foreman, of Michigan. He is the father of four children: three by his first wife and one by the second.

Seymore Cobb, farmer, Watseka, was born in Warren county, Indiana, January 15, 1834, and is the son of Ira Cobb, who was a farmer. Mr. Cobb was engaged in farming, in Warren county, until 1857, when he came to Iroquois county and located in Middleport township, where he has been a resident ever since. In 1870 he moved

to his present farm. He owns 300 acres of land. He married Rebecca Little, of Warren county, Indiana. They have five children living. Mr. Cobb's father died when he was thirteen years of age, leaving the care of the family on his mother.

Henry A. Butzow, county clerk, Watseka, was born in Mecklenburg-Schwerin, Germany, July 9, 1834, and is the son of Ludwig and Sophia (Wille) Butzow, both natives of Germany. His father was a school-teacher by profession. Mr. Butzow received his principal education in Germany, where he was engaged for three years in teaching school. In 1854 he started alone for America, and after landing in New York city, went to Oneida county, New York, where he worked on a farm for about sixteen months, when he came west to Illinois, and located on a farm near Chebanse. In 1855 he rented a farm in Kankakee county, Illinois, where he remained until 1858, when he came to Iroquois county, and located in Chebanse township, and farmed until 1862. He enlisted as a private, March, 1862, in Co. G, 25th Ill. Vol. Inf., for three years. He participated in the battles of Perryville, Siege of Atlanta, etc. He was wounded at the battle of Peach Tree creek, in the left breast; the bullet struck his watch and glanced around the rib, making a painful but not serious wound. He was disabled and sent to the hospital, but was afterward placed on extra duty at Louisville, where he remained until the close of the war in 1865. He then went to St. Clair county, where he had a brother, and remained with him about six months, when he made a trip to Germany in 1866, where he married his present wife, Sophia Pfudle. He returned to America in 1866, and located on a farm in Iroquois township, Iroquois county. In 1873 he was nominated and elected to the office of county clerk by the farmers' party, receiving a majority of 300 votes. In 1877 he was reelected to the same office, on the independent ticket, by a majority of 749 votes. Mr. Butzow held the office of township clerk of Iroquois township, from 1867 to 1873, and at the close of his service in that capacity he removed to Watseka, where he has since resided. In the discharge of his duties as a public officer he has been prompt and honorable. His reputation is such as the people bestow upon a citizen and officer who has betrayed no trust, but has assisted, in all honorable ways, to further every movement resulting in the welfare of the citizen and for the public good.

Joseph C. Popper, attorney-at-law, Watseka, was born in Bohemia, October 22, 1820. He received his education at Prague, the capital of Bohemia. In 1840 he came to America. He commenced the study of law in New York city, and in 1841 he was admitted to the bar in the state of New Jersey. He commenced the practice of law in Frank-



linville, and from there he came west, and was a resident of St. Louis, Missouri, for a short time. He came to Illinois in 1845, where he has remained ever since. In 1858 Mr. Popper came to Iroquois county. In 1862 he enlisted in the late civil war, as a private, in Co. F, 76th Ill. Vol. Inf. He did good service, and was in a number of the most prominent battles—fourteen in all. He was wounded in the left leg at Champion Hill. On account of this wound he is receiving a pension. Mr. Popper participated in the last battle during the war,—the capture of the Blakelies and the surrender of Mobile. From private he gradually rose to the position of chief clerk of the commissary department. After the war, Mr. Popper returned to Iroquois county, where he has been a resident since.

Arnold Brothers, druggists, Watseka, are the proprietors of the pioneer drug store of Watseka. T. S. Arnold, the senior member, was born in Clinton county, Ohio, March 6, 1846, and is the son of George W. and Martha (Mills) Arnold. His mother was born in Clinton county, Ohio, and his father in Virginia, and was a wagon-maker by trade. They were married in Ohio, where they raised a family of four children, three living. In 1851 they came to Illinois, and located in Livingston county, on a farm. He died in 1854. In 1856 the family moved to Grundy county. In 1858 they came to Iroquois county, and located at Middleport. Here Mr. T. S. Arnold learned the printer's trade, and followed his profession about two years. In 1862 he enlisted as corporal in Co. I, 113th Ill. Vol. Inf., for three years or during the war. He participated in several battles, and was detailed as clerk in Memphis, Tennessee. He served until the close of the war in 1865, at which time he returned to Middleport, and entered the drug firm of Secrest, Tillinghast & Co., as clerk. Here he served until 1866, when the firm moved to Watseka, and he became a partner. In 1869 Mr. Tillinghast died, and then the firm was changed to Secrest, Arnold & Co. In 1876 it changed to Arnold Bros. D. W. Arnold, the junior member, was born in Clinton county, Ohio, September 11, 1848. He was also a soldier in the late war, enlisting, in 1864, in Co. B, 134th reg., one-hundred-days service. This regiment did garrison duty, principally in Kentucky. In 1866 he entered as a clerk in a drug store in Eureka, Illinois, with Jas. W. Finley. He was also clerking for a short time at Milford. He then came to Watseka, and in 1869 was made a partner of the above-named firm.

Hon. George C. Harrington. It is one of the designs of this work to give brief sketches of the more prominent characters whose lives and conduct have been of such a nature as to make an impress upon the historical pages of the county in which they reside. When the

subject is of such a character as to present an example of honesty, industry and integrity to the younger and rising generation, pointing out to these the possibilities of the most humble among them, our sketch will serve the dual purpose of history and example. In our present subject we have such a character, as will be noted in this sketch. George C. Harrington was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, June 30, 1833, the son of Benjamin O. and Harriet E. (Langdon) Harrington, both natives of Vermont. When three years of age he came with his parents to Joliet, Illinois, where the family made their permanent home. At the age of thirteen he entered the office of the "True Democrat" (now the Joliet "Republican") to learn "the art preservative of all arts." Here he applied himself industriously and faithfully to his chosen vocation, and acquired a thorough knowledge of the printer's trade. Having served out his apprenticeship in the composing rooms of the "True Democrat," he went to Skowhegan Falls, Maine, and there, by a proper course of study, prepared himself for college. He afterward entered Union College, Schenectady, New York, then under the presidency of the distinguished Dr. Eliphalet Nott. His career in this celebrated institution of learning was a series of marked triumphs, standing at the head of his class in the classics, and in point of literary ability ranking first among the many able students then in attendance. From Schenectady he returned to the Great West and rested at Davenport, Iowa, which presented an inviting field to the young student, all aglow with enthusiasm and ambitions to carve out for himself a useful and worthy career. In connection with Franc B. Wilkie (Poliuto), now of the Chicago "Times," he established the Davenport "Daily News," which soon took rank as one of the leading democratic journals of Iowa. In 1859 Mr. Harrington came to Iroquois county, and associated himself with the Iroquois "Press," a democratic newspaper. In the following year the democracy of Iroquois county placed him in nomination as their candidate for circuit clerk, and although defeated at the ensuing election, he ran largely ahead of his ticket. He still continued his connection with the "Press" until 1862. The country was then writhing in the agonies of civil war, and as a patriotic son he felt that his services were required in the field. He consequently abandoned his editorial duties and began recruiting for the service, and after taking the first company into camp at Kankakee for the 76th Illinois regiment, assisted in filling up two other companies for the 113th. He enlisted as a private soldier, but his superior ability being recognized, the members of his company (A) elected him captain. In January, 1863, he was promoted to major. He was, however, not permitted to serve long after this. On July 4, 1863,



Thomas Vennum



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near Vicksburg, Mississippi, he was reluctantly obliged to resign on account of dysentery contracted in the army, the effects of which still linger with him, and from which he will probably never recover. On his return from the army he engaged in the hardware business at Watseka, in the firm of Woodford & Co. He was soon after appointed collector of internal revenue for Iroquois, Ford and Champaign counties, in which capacity he discharged his duties conscientiously, so that at the close of his official term not one cent of the large amounts of money handled by him was missing, and he turned over the books to his successors with a clean record. In 1869 Maj. Harrington was elected mayor of Watseka, and reelected the following year, declining the office after having served two terms, though urgently pressed to accept a third term. This evinces the high esteem in which he is held by the people of Watseka. In the year 1870, in connection with several other enterprising citizens, Maj. Harrington organized the First National Bank of Watseka, of which corporation he was promptly chosen as cashier, which office he still holds. This institution is one of the stanchest and most flourishing in the county, having, from its organization, won the confidence of the people. Maj. Harrington was married to Miss Mary L. Hutchinson, at Crawfordsville, Indiana, in 1864, and has two children living. Very domestic in his habits, his home is a model of comfort and good taste. He has taken considerable interest in politics, though not an active politician in the usual sense of that term. He is recognized throughout the state as a prominent democrat, prominent more for his ability than his activity. At present he is a member of the democratic state central committee. Though never an office-seeker, he was, in 1876, without his consent, mentioned by several papers and prominently spoken of by eminent democrats as a candidate for secretary of state; but he induced his friends to withdraw his name from the state convention. He presided over the democratic congressional convention held at Fairbury in 1878, and on invitation of that body addressed them, making a masterly speech, which was published and scattered broadcast as a campaign document. The same convention would have nominated him as their candidate for congress, but he emphatically declined the proffered honor. His name is at this time conspicuous in several democratic journals as an available candidate for lieutenant-governor of Illinois. Maj. Harrington is an active member of the Independent Order of Odd-Fellows, and much esteemed by his brethren of the fraternity. Hon. George C. Harrington is a self-made man, having risen by his own unaided efforts to his present enviable position in life. His parents were poor, but by his indefatigable energy he acquired an education in spite of all the obstacles

that darkened the path of his early years. His future promises most auspiciously, and should his life be spared the ordinary years allotted to man, we predict that his name will yet become distinguished in the annals of our state as it is in that of Iroquois county. A gentleman of culture, a fine scholar, and still a student from habit; a man towering high among his fellows, all recognizing his superior ability and worth of character, and ever ready to pay deference to his excellent qualities, he is yet as modest and retiring as a child; vanity is not one of his characteristics. A democrat in principle and practice, he believes, with a faith born of conviction, in the equality and brotherhood of man. He is public-spirited, liberal and charitable, ever ready to assist, with his purse or his pen, in any cause that promises good to his fellow man or the public. A man of broad and comprehensive views, he looks upon the world as he finds it, and is therefore conservative rather than radical. The people of Watseka look upon him as an exemplary man, and are proud to call him their own.

Among the first and most successful business men of Watseka, may be mentioned the late Henry A. Tillinghast, who was born near Norwich, Connecticut, in 1836. But very little could be learned of Mr. Tillinghast's early life. At ten years of age he entered the drug business as a clerk in a leading store in Norwich, Connecticut. From there he came west to Illinois, and accepted a similar position in Chicago, where he remained in the business until about 1859, when he came to Iroquois county and took a position as clerk. From here he engaged as a partner in the drug firm of Secrest, Tillinghast & Co., at Middleport. This firm at that time was one of the leading business houses of Iroquois county. They moved their stock of goods from Middleport to Watseka, and occupied the stand now owned by the Arnold Brothers. Here he remained in business until his death, which occurred in March, 1869. Thus passed away one of the most highly respected and honored business men of Watseka. Mr. Tillinghast, in 1860, married Miss Mary E. Arnold, who was born in Clinton county, Ohio, in 1842. By this marriage they have one child living. Mrs. Tillinghast married the second time to George E. King, a prominent attorney. By this union they have two children living.

Lovett & James, livery men, Watseka, are the proprietors of one of the leading livery stables of Watseka. Mr. H. C. Lovett was born in Rhode Island, and came west and located in Iroquois county in 1860. Here he has been engaged in farming and dealing in stock. In February, 1879, he entered partnership with Mr. Geo. W. James, in the livery business. These gentlemen occupy the building that was once used as a school and court-house in Middleport. The building is



40×40 feet, with an addition 30×40 feet. They keep on hand fourteen head of good horses, and some nice carriages.

Lyman M. Johnson, maker of abstracts of titles, Watseka, was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, June 2, 1848, and is the son of Isaac D. and Eliza A. (Sawtelle) Johnson. His father was born in Ludlow, Vermont, having moved to Ohio, and located in Cincinnati, about 1830 or 1832, being among the early settlers of that place. He engaged in the livery, in connection with the undertaking, business with J. P. Epply & Co., the largest undertakers of Cincinnati. They owned the first hearse with glass sides in the west. After Henry Clay's death, his remains were brought through Cincinnati, on their way to Kentucky, and Mr. Johnson was detailed by the committee to transfer the body through the city. He went to the extra expense of fixing and trimming up his hearse, and of selecting a number of white horses. Afterward the committee asked Mr. Johnson what his bill was, and he told them—nothing. He said he would never make any charge for serving such a true man to his country as Henry Clay. For this act of kindness, the family of Henry Clay presented Mr. Johnson with a seal-ring with a lock of Henry Clay's hair in it, which to-day is in the possession of the Johnson family. At the breaking out of the war Mr. Johnson was appointed, by the government, inspector of horses, mules, harness and wagons, in Cincinnati. He also filled a similar position during the Mexican war. He served the government through the war, and in 1866 died with cholera. Mr. Johnson, the subject of this sketch, remained in Cincinnati until 1861, when he moved with his parents to Iroquois county, and located on a farm near Loda, where he engaged in farming for a short time, and returned to Cincinnati and completed his college preparatory course. In 1866 he entered the Beloit College, of Beloit, Wisconsin, and graduated from this college in 1870. He returned to Iroquois county, and in 1872 came to Watseka, and entered the abstract office of Judge C. F. McNeill, where he remained about one and a half years. In 1875 he purchased the abstract business from Kay & Langlier, in which business he has been engaged ever since. Mr. Johnson has in his possession a sword-blade which was the dress-sword of President Harrison.

George A. Woodford, son of William E. and Margaret Woodford, was born in Orleans county, New York, September 28, 1834, educated in the common schools and academy of that county, and spent his youth there. He came west in the winter of 1853-4, located at Ottawa, Illinois, taught a school there that winter, and in the spring came to Middleport; engaged in farming in the county that summer, and in the fall returned to New York, remained there one year, and then came

back to Middleport in September, 1855. He taught school in Middleport and neighborhood until September, 1858, when he took the position of deputy clerk, under Daniel Fry, who was then county clerk. On November 4, 1861, he was elected county clerk for Iroquois county, for the term of four years. Before his term of office expired he engaged in the hardware and grocery business, his store being located at Watseka. Soon after his term of office expired he sold his stock in trade, and became a partner with John L. Donovan and Thomas Vennum in the Watseka bank, and remained in that institution until it was sold by the firm to Matzenbaugh & Skeels. He removed to Indianapolis, Indiana, in 1875, where he now resides. He was married, May 24, 1865, to Miss Anna Hutchinson, daughter of Jonathan Hutchinson, Montgomery county, Indiana. They have no children. In politics he has been a war democrat, is a bright Mason and Odd-Fellow, and a genial, social good fellow.

Hon. Cornelius F. McNeill, attorney-at-law and abstractor, of the city of Watseka, son of John and Hannah (Mayne) McNeill, was born in Middletown valley, Frederick county, Maryland, March 20, 1822. His father was of Scotch descent, and his mother of German descent, the former born in Tuscarora valley, Pennsylvania, and the latter in Frederick county, Maryland. His father was a prominent and highly respected citizen of Frederick county, Maryland, and while residing in that county held several offices of honor and profit. Born upon a farm where his help was needed, the subject of this sketch had only such opportunities for an early education as were offered in the country schools, taught principally during the winter season, and the use of a well selected general library, owned by his father, through which means he acquired a fair education, and formed a taste for general reading and special investigation, which has followed him through life, and enabled him to become well posted in almost every branch of science and literature, and ranks him among the prominent self-made men of the country. In the fall of 1836 he, with his father's family, emigrated to the then Far West, and located at Perrysville, on the Wabash river, in Vermilion county, Indiana, where his father died in 1843, and his mother died in 1856, and where his only living brothers, John R. and George H. McNeill, now reside. At Perrysville he commenced the study of the law, and part of the time being also engaged in teaching school; but before having completed the study of that profession, his health failing presented to him a strong inducement to pursue the study of medicine, for his own benefit as to his health; and after having completed the usual course of study in this profession, in the spring of 1845, he located at Concord, Tippecanoe

county, Indiana, and pursued the practice of his profession at that place until the fall of 1854, having a very extensive practice. In 1852 he was nominated, by the whig convention of that county, as a candidate for the legislature of Indiana, but the whig ticket being defeated that year in that county, he was not elected. In May, 1846, he was married, at Perrysville, Indiana, to Miss Belinda Lacey, daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Lacey, of that place. She died in August, 1847, after bearing him a son, which died a few days after its mother. On July 16, 1852, he was again married to Mrs. Mary Tatman, widow of Joseph Tatman, who had been an attorney-at-law, of Lafayette, Indiana, and for some time the editor and proprietor of the "Lafayette Journal." The result of this last marriage is two children, a son and a daughter: Mary E. McNeill and John L. McNeill. His health failing, and for that reason desiring to abandon the practice of medicine, in November, 1854, he removed to Middleport, Iroquois county, Illinois, resided there the following winter, and the next spring located on a tract of 300 acres of land, which he had purchased, near the mouth of Spring creek, and which he improved. In the spring of 1857 he sold his farm and returned to Middleport, having been elected a justice of the peace of the town of Middleport. In 1858 he was admitted to the bar by the supreme court of Illinois. At the republican convention this year he came within one vote of being nominated as a candidate for the general assembly. In November, 1859, he became the editor and proprietor of the "Iroquois Republican," and conducted that paper in the interests of the republican party and the union cause, through the exciting campaign of 1860 and the dark days of 1861. In the spring of this year he was elected police magistrate of Middleport, and in the same year was nominated by the union convention of the county a candidate for the constitutional convention. The district was composed of Iroquois, Kankakee, Will and DuPage counties, and entitled to only three delegates; each had nominated a candidate, and in order to promote harmony in the union elements of the district, he magnanimously withdrew in favor of John W. Paddock, a war democrat, who had been nominated by Kankakee county. In 1862 he was appointed master-in-chancery of Iroquois county, and served in that office for three years. In 1864, 1865 and 1866 he was elected supervisor of the town of Middleport, and also appointed to fill vacancies in that office in 1872 and 1877. In 1866 he was chairman of the building committee appointed by the board to build the present court-house of the county. In 1862 he was appointed by Gov. Yates, surgeon of the 109th reg. Ill. Vol., but his health being such as not to warrant his acceptance of active service in the field, he declined the appointment, but afterward



accepted an appointment in the service of the state, in looking after the wounded soldiers, and did considerable service in that capacity during the war. In 1865 he was elected judge of the county court, for Iroquois county, Hon. Samuel Williams being his opponent, and was reëlected in 1869, by a largely increased majority, over the same opponent, and served for eight years in that office, gaining the reputation of being one of the best judges in the state. In 1863 he bought the abstract books of Wm. H. Taylor, then owned by H. O. Henry, but not complete, and afterward completed a general abstract of the land titles of the county, and which is still the only complete abstract in the county. He is engaged in the abstract business and in chancery practice pertaining to land titles. In politics he was a whig up to the dissolution of that party, and since a leading radical republican, and has exerted a controlling influence in that party in his county. He is not a member of any church, but has a firm belief in the moral responsibility of man, and that exact justice will be dealt out to all by the Creator, both in this life and the great future, and from which there can be no escape. He is a prominent Mason; joined that order in Perry Lodge, No. 37, La Fayette, Indiana, in 1847; was several years master of Lauramie Lodge, No. 32, in that state; was the first master of Middleport Lodge, No. 289, Illinois; is now a member of Watseka Lodge, No. 446, and a member of Watseka Chapter, No. 114, and has held the second office in that chapter. He is strongly impressed with the beauties of the symbols of the order. Being of Scotch-German descent, indicates the fact that he is a man of marked character. He has one of the best general libraries in the county, and is a great reader, and well posted in most of the affairs of life. He is quick in forming his opinions and frank in expressing them, yet, from his legal training, he is apt to be just in his conclusions. He is intolerant of what he believes error and wrong-doing, and his outspoken manner sometimes gives offense to those who do not thoroughly understand his character, and therefore cannot appreciate him. Having acquired considerable valuable property and lands, he is comfortably circumstanced, and resides in a fine brick residence of his own, immediately west of the court-house on Second street, in the city of Watseka.

N. Jourdan, farmer, Watseka, is a native of York state, born June 27, 1820. In 1852 he came west, and located in Illinois, living in different counties. He finally located in Iroquois county, where he is engaged in farming. He formerly worked at the blacksmith trade, which he learned in his native state. Mr. Jourdan's father was in the war of 1812, participating in the battle of Sackett's Harbor. In 1849 Mr. N. Jourdan married Miss L. Koucher, a native of New York, and

by this union they have six living children: Sylvester, Charles B.; Anne, wife of Thomas Soloman; Deforest A., Eva, Mary; and three deceased: Elizabeth, Fremont and Delzora.

J. E. Leatherman, farmer, Watseka, was born in Putnam county, Indiana, January 7, 1833. In 1835 Mr. Leatherman's parents came to Cook county, Illinois. Mr. Leatherman remained at home working on the farm, that being his occupation. In 1856 he married Miss L. R. Hatch, daughter of E. Hatch and Phoebe (Rodgers) Hatch. In 1857 Mr. Leatherman came to his present farm. On August 12, 1862, he enlisted in Co. F, 113th Ill. Vol. Inf., and was soon transported to the field of action, and took part in several engagements — the siege of Vicksburg, Arkansas Post, — then returning to Springfield, Illinois, with prisoners, but soon after rejoining his regiment. June 11, 1864, he was taken prisoner and taken to Andersonville, where he was held a prisoner-of-war about five months. While there his life was constantly in danger from exposure, starvation, and occasionally getting too close to the "dead line," which, if crossed, was sure death. After remaining there for some time, he was taken to South Carolina, and soon after paroled. Since his return home he has been engaged in farming; he is the owner of a fine farm of 222 acres, which he and his wife have made by hard work.

Thomas Soran, son of Patrick and Ann (Carney) Soran, was born May 16, 1830, in Louth county, Ireland; was educated in the common schools of that country, and spent his youth there in farming. He left Ireland November 25, 1849, and landed in New York city December 26, 1849. He soon engaged in work on the New Jersey Central railroad, and remained on that road about two years; then engaged on the Delaware & Belvidere railroad, New Jersey, for about one year; left and entered the employ of the Pennsylvania Central railroad, residing at Altoona, and was so employed about fifteen months. He then came to Springfield, Illinois, and laid the track on the Great Western railroad from that city to Decatur, and remained on that road about fifteen months; then went to Keokuk, Iowa, and worked on the Keokuk & Fort Dodge railroad, graded the first eight miles, and cleared the road to Farmington, thirty miles. On September 27, 1857, he engaged his services on the P. & O. railroad as assistant roadmaster; and on January 1, 1860, became roadmaster, and so remained until January 1, 1876. He was married, May 20, 1858, to Nancy Lyons; has no children. He was raised a Catholic; in politics is independent. He owns about 800 acres of land, and several houses and lots in Watseka, including a good brick store-building and stock of groceries; also owns about 100 head of cattle and other property,

and worth not less than \$30,000. He is an enterprising, intelligent and valuable citizen.

Brooks & Oren, druggists, are among the leading merchants of Watseka. The firm is composed of John B. Brooks and Asa Oren. Mr. Brooks was born in Jackson, Michigan, in 1850, and there was engaged in the mercantile business. He came to Watseka and was in the well known house of Secrest, Arnold & Co., where he remained some three years. In 1873 he embarked in the drug business with Mr. Bowsher, the firm being Bowsher & Brooks. In 1875 the present firm of Brooks & Oren was formed. Mr. Oren was born in Ohio, January 16, 1840, and is the son of John and Martha (Bailey) Oren, both members of the Quaker church. Mr. Oren came to Iroquois county in 1861, where he remained until 1862, when he returned to Ohio. In 1870 he came back to Iroquois county, and was made deputy sheriff, under Mr. A. South, for some five years. In 1875 he associated himself with Mr. Brooks and entered the drug business.

Abraham Andrew, Watseka, was born in Butler county, Ohio, December 20, 1835, and is the son of Jacob and Mary (Neighheart) Andrew, who were natives of Pennsylvania and Virginia. Capt. Andrew, the subject of our sketch, was born on the farm. When very young, with his parents, he moved to Jacksonburg, Ohio, where his father was engaged in the hotel business. From there they moved to Summerville, and thence to Indianapolis, Indiana, and subsequently to Dayton, Tippecanoe county; in these places his father followed the hotel business. He next went on a farm, and afterward moved to Warren county. Capt. Andrew learned the harness-maker's trade at Dayton, and at this trade he worked at Williamsport. At the breaking out of the late civil war, he was the second man who enlisted in Co. B, 10th reg. Ind. Vol. Inf. for three months. This regiment did duty in Virginia, and participated in the battle of Rich Mountain, Virginia; after serving full time he was honorably mustered out. He then came to Watseka and entered his brother's harness shop. He then entered a dry goods store, and was clerking for Daniel Fry when he and Maj. Harrington raised Co. A, of the 76th Ill. Vol. Inf. He was made first lieutenant, and Maj. Harrington was made captain. Capt. Andrew participated in every battle the 76th was in; he was made captain of Co. A, on January 4, 1863, and was known as Capt. Mice, being called this on account of being a small man in stature. He took the camp diarrhœa and was given up to die at Vicksburg, Mississippi; and was given a leave of absence for twenty days, his old army friends never expecting to see him again. He was put on board of a Mississippi river steamer, and started for home; here he met John Har-





very Truly  
Edward Dalton

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ington, the pilot of the boat, who gave him blackberry brandy and cured him before he arrived at Cairo. He came home, but returned to the regiment inside of twenty days. At the close of the war he returned to Watseka, where he entered the grocery business, and remained in this business about two years. After this he entered the harness business; then for a short time farmed; for some six years he clerked in a dry goods store, and was in the livery stable business some five years. Capt. Andrew was married, January 24, 1867, to Caroline Troup, who was born in Middleport January 2, 1849. They have had two children, one of whom is deceased.

Michael R. Emmons, blacksmith, Watseka, is one of the oldest blacksmiths in this vicinity. He was born in Burlington county, New Jersey, in 1834. His father managed a blacksmith shop, and was a farmer; here Mr. Emmons was born. When he was a small lad he began to work at the trade of a blacksmith in Pointsville, New Jersey, where he remained until he was twenty-one years of age. At that time he set out in life and worked at his trade in Pennsylvania and Michigan, and about 1856 came to Illinois and was engaged at his trade in DeKalb and Kane counties. He finally came to Iroquois county, where they were building the Toledo, Peoria & Warsaw railroad. Mr. Emmons first located in Crescent; he was for a short time in Indiana; at last he located in Middleport township, where he has been engaged at his trade ever since. He worked at Pittwood from 1862 to 1879, when he came to Watseka, where he is now engaged in working at his trade. Mr. Emmons was married to Miss Margaret Stewart, of Cleveland, Ohio, and they have six children.

John W. Riggs, circuit clerk, Watseka, was born in Chester county, in the old "Keystone State," August 24, 1834, and is the son of William and Hannah (Gutherie) Riggs, both natives of Pennsylvania. Mr. Riggs was born on his father's farm, and at two years of age, with his parents, moved to Philadelphia. While a resident there, he was engaged as bookkeeper in the missionary department of the American Sunday School Union, a large publishing house of Philadelphia, where he remained some seven years. In 1862 Mr. Riggs came west to Illinois, and located at Buckly, Iroquois county, where he was engaged in the mercantile business, and remained there some two years, when he moved to Glenwood, and was engaged in the same business some four years, after which time he returned to Buckly. In 1872 he was nominated and elected to the office of circuit clerk, by the republican party, receiving a majority of 1,200 votes. In 1876 he was reëlected to the same office by a handsome majority. Mr. Riggs was for several years



justice of the peace and town clerk of his township. In each of these offices he has acquitted himself in a very creditable manner. He ranks among the leading men of the republican party. Mr. Riggs was married, in 1857, to Miss Richards, of Philadelphia, and by this union they have five children. Mr. Riggs moved to Watseka in 1872.

Clinton Wade, merchant, Watseka, is one of the foremost merchants of Watseka. He was born January 22, 1829, in Wayne county, New York, and is the son of Uriah Wade, who was born in Connecticut in 1796. Uriah Wade moved west, and located in Michigan, in 1833, when that state was a territory. Here he remained engaged in farming until 1871, when he was killed by a passing freight train on the Michigan Central railroad. The subject of this sketch, with his parents, moved to Michigan, where he remained until 1852, engaged in farming. He then went to Cincinnati, Ohio, and entered the Grundy Commercial College, of Cincinnati. Here he received a full course of bookkeeping. He accepted a position as assistant bookkeeper of the Miami Powder Company, at Xenia, Ohio; and there remained with this company, directly and indirectly, until 1857, when he went to New York city, and was engaged as a general salesman with the well known firms of Lyman, Cook & Co., and North, Sherman & Co. He remained there until after the war broke out, at which time he came west and located at Watseka, Iroquois county. He purchased a building from John Fagan, and commenced in the general-store business, being one of the first merchants of Watseka. In 1869 he went to Chicago, and commenced the jobbing trade, where he remained until 1871, when he was burnt out by the great fire. He lost sixty per cent. of his investment. He returned to Watseka, and to-day is conducting one of the best business stores of the place. Mr. Wade is at present holding office as a councilman of Watseka. This office he has held for a number of years.

Henry C. Stearns, attorney-at-law, Watseka, was born in Walpole, New Hampshire, May 11, 1851, and is the son of J. W. Stearns. In 1863 Mr. Stearns, with his parents, came west, and located in Martin-ton, Iroquois county, Illinois, where Mr. Stearns, in 1873, was made postmaster. He was the first postmaster at that place, and held the office until 1875. He received his education at the Watseka High School, and the Grand Prairie School at Onarga. In 1876 he graduated from the Union College of Law at Chicago, and came to Watseka and began practicing. In 1878 he formed a partnership with Mr. E. M. Amos, which continued until 1879, when, in September, 1879, he began with Mr. Free P. Morris.

Wm. H. Weaver, photographer artist, Watseka, was born in Union

county, Pennsylvania, December 25, 1834, and is the son of M. H. Weaver, who was a leading attorney at New Berlin, the county seat of Union county. He was also editor of the "Union Star," a leading newspaper, and was a prominent politician, having held the offices of circuit clerk of the county and county surveyor. When Mr. Weaver, the subject of this sketch, was a young lad, he helped his father to survey different parts of Union county, and at the age of twenty-one came west to Indiana, where he carried on the machine shops of the Wabash Valley railroad, near Lafayette. In 1858 he came to Illinois, and located at Paxton, where, in 1858, he began to learn the trade of a photographer. In 1863 he came to Iroquois county, and located at Watseka, when he began the photograph business, being the first artist to locate at Watseka. Here he has remained since, and to-day he is one of the most successful, as well as finest, artists in eastern Illinois. In 1879 Mr. Weaver was elected to the office of justice of the peace. In 1873 he was made treasurer of the Iroquois County Bible Society. He has been president for a number of years of the Iroquois County Sabbath School Association, and has been a member of the M. E. church for the last eleven years. Mr. Weaver was married, in 1858, to Miss Mary Kerr, of Indiana. They have three children.

John L. Hamilton, county treasurer, Watseka, was born in the county of Armagh, Ireland. His parents were Thomas L. and Mary Ann (McCamley) Hamilton, and were of Scotch and English descent. In 1851 Mr. Hamilton emigrated to America—New Orleans being the port of disembarkation, where he remained but a short time; then came to Illinois and located in Jersey county, when he began work on a farm by the month. He managed well, and by his industry and economy saved money enough to pay for 160 acres of land in Mason county, for which he paid \$225, and afterward realized for it \$47.50 per acre. He remained in Jersey and Maconpin counties until 1864, when he came to Iroquois county and located on section 11, in Lovejoy township, where he began farming, and being a good manager and hard worker, he became one of the best farmers in that neighborhood. While a resident of Lovejoy township he held the office of school director for several years, and also the office of supervisor for a number of terms; in both of these offices he gave entire satisfaction. In 1875 he was nominated and elected to the office of county treasurer of Iroquois county, by the republican party, his majority being 300 votes. In 1877 he was reelected to the same office by a majority of 500 votes, he being the only republican on the ticket that was elected. While he received a majority of 500 votes, the opposition party elected their officers by a majority as follows: superintendent of county schools,

506; county clerk, 749; county judge, 906. In 1879, by the urgent request of the republican party, he again became their candidate for the same office, to which he was elected by a majority of 617 votes. During these terms of office Mr. Hamilton has made a host of friends, and is, perhaps, the strongest man in the republican ranks of Iroquois county. This is probably due to the honorable, upright course that he has pursued, and the plain, unaffected way in which he has received the honors that they have been willing to bestow upon him. Though he began, as before stated, poor, and worked for small wages on a farm, he is now, by his industry and careful management, one of the wealthy class of Iroquois county, and may truly be termed one of her self-made men. His portrait has been placed in this work as an honorable representative of the people. Mr. Hamilton was married, in Jersey county, Illinois, February 24, 1857, to Miss Annie Eliza Leeman, who is of Scotch-Irish descent. By this union they have had nine children, two of whom are deceased.

J. C. Anderson, miller, Woodland, was born in Mason county, Kentucky, January 19, 1818, and is the son of William C., a shoemaker by trade, and Katherine (Cook) Smalley. When he was about twelve years old he, with his parents, moved from Kentucky to Indiana, and located in Fountain county, near Attica. At sixteen years of age he commenced to learn the trade of a cabinet-maker, and served an apprenticeship of five years, after which he started a shop of his own in Attica, which he managed till 1849. For a short time he was a resident of Warren county. In 1854 he moved to Vermilion county, Illinois, near Hoopeston, on a farm, where he remained until 1864, when he came to Iroquois county, and located one and a half miles east of Woodland, in Belmont township. Here he commenced farming. He was also, in 1868, engaged in sawmilling. His first experience in this line was in Warren county, in 1851. Mr. Anderson was for two years in the same business in Howard county, Indiana. In 1874 he moved his saw-mill to Woodland, and in 1878 built the present flour-mill, which commenced running February, 1879. The flour-mill is a frame building, two stories high, 24×40 feet, with a large shed for the engine and boiler. Mr. Anderson was married in Attica, January 9, 1842, to Miss Charlotte Steel, of Ohio, and they have had eight children, six living. Mr. Anderson commenced life a poor boy, but by working at his trade, saving what he earned and investing it in land, he now owns 383 acres of land, and his saw and flour-mill property.

E. Rosenberg, grain and hardware merchant, Woodland, was born in Saxe-Weimar, Germany, November 28, 1840. When a young lad he entered his father's brick-yard, where he was engaged in manufac-



turing brick until 1864, when he sailed for America, came west to Illinois, and located in Iroquois county, where he has been a resident since. In 1866 Mr. Rosenberg built a brewery in Watseka. The first building cost him \$1,400. To this he added until he had a neat brewery, with a capacity for manufacturing eight barrels of beer. He remained in the business until 1873, when he went to Papineau and entered the hardware business, where he remained until he came to Woodland, in 1876. Here he is engaged now in the grain firm of S. Williams & Co., and with the hardware firm of Rosenberg & Zemple. Mr. Rosenberg is a member of the I.O.O.F. He holds the office of school director. The firm of S. Williams commenced in September, 1876. They have shipped from Woodland as high as 110,000 pounds of grain in one day.

Lorenzo D. Browne, farmer, Watseka, was born in Mason county, Virginia, March 3, 1822, and is the son of Martin Browne, who was born in Frederick county, Virginia. Martin Browne was a soldier of the war of 1812, under Gen. Harrison. In 1828 the subject of this sketch, with his parents, moved to Madison county, Indiana, where Martin Browne died, in 1856. Lorenzo visited Indianapolis, then a small town, in 1829. He went there with his father to enter land, and the entering office was a small log hut. Mr. Browne was married, in 1843, to Miss Nancy Harlan, of Indiana. They remained in Madison county until 1865. Mr. Browne came to Iroquois county, Illinois, in 1864, and purchased the present homestead, and in 1865 moved his family, consisting of a wife and ten children. Here Mr. Browne remained until 1872, when he moved to Watseka for the purpose of schooling his children. He remained a resident of that place some three years, and while there was engaged in the hardware business in the store of L. C. Marsh. He subsequently moved his family back to the farm, where he has been a resident since. Mr. Browne was engaged in the mercantile business in Anderson, Indiana, about one year. Since his residence in Belmont township he has held the office of justice of the peace some eight years. Mr. Browne is a republican in politics. He is a member of the Christian church. He purchased the present farm from Aaron Moore. He now owns 255 acres of well improved land. Mr. Browne's grandfather, Martin Browne, came to America after the close of the revolutionary war. He brought with him some books, a few copies of which are now in the possession of Mr. Browne; one, a dictionary of English and Italian, printed in London, England, in 1727.

I. C. Wade, hardware and lumber merchant, Watseka, was born in Berry county, Michigan, January 24, 1848, and is the son of Thaddeus Wade. Mr. Wade was born on the farm, but moved to Allegan,

Michigan, when very young. Here he remained until 1863. During the late war he tried four or five times to enlist, but, on account of his being too young, was rejected. At last he went to Rochester, New York, where he enlisted as private in Co. M, 22d reg. N. Y. Vol. Cav. This regiment was with Gen. Custer. Mr. Wade participated in thirty-three battles, some of which were the most severe of the war. His first battle was at the battle of the Wilderness,—one of the hardest of the war; he was also in the battles of Cold Harbor, Wilson's Raid, (a continuous battle—there were 8,000 men sent out on this raid, and only 3,000 returned—and considered by Gen. Grant the most bloody battle in which he was ever engaged), Fisher's Hill, Winchester, and Cedar Creek. Mr. Wade had charge of thirty men, who stood picket duty on the Potomac for sixty days in the heat of danger. During Mr. Wade's soldiering he was taken prisoner twice, but managed to make an escape each time. He was mustered out in August, 1865, when he returned to Michigan. In 1865, with his parents, he moved to Watseka. In 1870 he entered the lumber business. In 1871 and 1872 he was in the lumber business in Milford. In 1875 he commenced the hardware business in connection with his lumber business, and owns now one of the leading business establishments in Watseka. Mr. Wade was married, in 1873, to Miss Theresa Hastings, who died with the consumption in 1878. By this union they have two children living. Mr. Wade is a republican in politics. He was a delegate to the Greeley convention, held in Cincinnati in 1872.

Edward Dalton, lumber merchant, Watseka, the subject of this sketch, and whose portrait appears in this work, is a native of county Roscommon, Ireland. He is the son of James and Margaret (McGuire) Dalton, and was born December 15, 1814. His father by his own exertions accumulated considerable property, so that young Edward was given the advantages of the common schools until the age of eleven years, and was then sent to the Latin school of Strokestown, where he remained until he was about seventeen years old. Here he made very rapid progress, and would shortly have graduated, had not his father concluded to emigrate to America, which he did, leaving our subject in charge of two farms, which were to be by him sub-rented and managed. In January, 1832, his father sailed for America, and in May, 1834, Edward, with his mother and four brothers, followed him, arriving at St. Joseph, Michigan, in the following July; their trip being made from Buffalo, New York, on the steamer Sandusky, which was the first lake-steamer that ever made the run into the St. Joseph river at that point. Instead of being obliged to send for him, as his father had thought, Edward arrived with 734 golden guineas, which

he handed his father, they being the proceeds of his two years' management of affairs in Ireland. His father in the meantime had purchased a small farm near St. Joseph, on which Edward began work, continuing until the following March, 1835. He then started on foot for Chicago, resolving to begin life on his own account. On his arrival at Chicago he found employment in the capacity of clerk for Henry & Gurdon S. Hubbard, they at that time having the only brick store-house in the city. It was their intention to send him to Rock river, where Rockford, Illinois, now stands, and let him have charge of a store in trading with the Indians and settlers. This prospect, which was very gratifying to him, was spoiled by the Hubbards quitting the mercantile and entering the real estate business. Now young Dalton had again to look for employment, or embark in business for himself; but, having no capital, the latter seemed quite out of the question. But this obstacle was overcome by Mr. Henry Hubbard, who supplied him with a stock of goods, and offered to furnish a conveyance also. But this Mr. Dalton refused, and, taking his pack, he started out to peddle; though he soon quit the business, squared accounts with the Hubbards, and returned to St. Joseph, Michigan, where he and his father erected a building in North St. Joseph, and opened a hotel. There he continued business until 1838, when he went to Grand Rapids, Michigan, and in the spring of 1839 he and his father went a short distance west of Grand Rapids, to a place called Sand Creek, where, in 1845, he built a saw-mill. This mill Edward ran for about one year. He then went to Chicago and opened a lumber-yard, at the corner of Clinton and Randolph streets, which he managed successfully for about one year. His father then took charge of the yard, and he went back to the mills at Sand Creek. From 1847 until 1853, his father, brothers, and himself were doing business together. In 1853 he began operating on his own account, in the manufacture of lumber at Sand Creek. In 1861 he quit milling, and, until 1865, was engaged in no active business. In 1861, when troops were being raised for the war of the rebellion, he was offered a captain's commission in Col. St. Clair's regiment, the 14th reg. Mich. Vol. Inf. This he did not accept until too late, the commission being given to another. In 1865 he became a resident of Watseka, where his brothers were engaged in the lumber trade. In 1868 he bought them out, and has since conducted the business alone. In the fall of 1872 he met with an accident which crippled him for life. He had been at Rankin, where he proposed opening a branch yard, and in returning to Watseka, jumped from a freight train which was in motion, at Sheldon, and broke his left hip, injuring it so badly as to have never



recovered complete use of it. This accident caused him to abandon the business at Rankin. He is now doing a small business in the lumber trade at Watseka, the principal part of his property being farm lands located in different parts of Michigan, of which he has about 1,500 acres, most of which is very valuable land. Mr. Dalton is a man possessed of a high sense of honor, and, while he is naturally unassuming, he is still a vigorous and active man, of much culture and well read. He has never been an office-seeker, though solicited many times during life by his friends to become a candidate, his attention having been given mostly to business affairs. He being naturally a shrewd business man and good financier, the result of his efforts has been success. He bears a good name and reputation, and has the respect and esteem of the community in which he resides. Mr. Dalton has never married, which, perhaps, is the only failure he has ever made in life.

Hon. Matthew Henry Peters (contributed by Maj. George C. Harrington). America is peculiarly the province of self-made men, for in no other land can the efforts and energies of an ambitious man meet with so full a reward by the appreciation of his fellow-man. To every boy, no matter how humble or discouraging may be his position in early life, the future promises a reward for his struggles and privations, providing he makes use of all the faculties he possesses, and has sufficient will-power to determine upon success. This fact is illustrated by the history of so many noble men and women who have patiently and diligently worked through the long night of doubt and discouragement, and yet lived to see the bright day of success with its attendant honors and prosperity. And he who rises to prominence from the lowest level, and conquers obstacles apparently the most insurmountable, is deserving a higher meed of praise in proportion as his struggles have been severer than those of his fellow man. An illustration of the matter in point is well shown in the history of the subject of this sketch, Matthew H. Peters, the stirring events of whose life, given in detail, would equal in interest the most dramatic tale of our best novelists. Born in Rhenish Bavaria in 1843, he was brought to New Orleans, by his parents, when a babe. His mother died a year or two after reaching America, soon followed to the grave by his two sisters, leaving his father with two small boys, a stranger in a strange land, very poor in worldly means, and unable to speak the language of the people whom he was among. In a brief time the father was carried off by the yellow fever, thus leaving the two little boys without home or friends. Samuel, the younger brother, was placed in the orphan asylum, while Matthew, the subject of this sketch, was taken by an



Very Truly  
W. A. Peters

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acquaintance, who made him the subject of a series of abuses that can scarcely be realized—forcing the illy-clad and homeless orphan to steal for him, and beating him in a terrible manner if he was not successful. This man had a small tailoring shop, and kept the boy at work from early morn until 10 or 11 o'clock at night, and even Sundays, allowing him as his food but one slice of bread three times a day. In the year 1855, nearly broken down by lack of food, and by the beatings and bruises from this cruel master, he determined to escape. The night before his attempt he was given fifty cents to do the morning marketing. He arose early, took his half dollar—he had not even clothes enough to make a bundle to carry along—and started to try for himself the world. He took up his quarters in another part of the city, lived a precarious life upon the streets, slept under the wharves, old culverts and store boxes, among the bales of cotton, or bags of rice and coffee,—anywhere that offered a place to stay as night approached. The days were spent in picking up old horse-shoe nails, scattered grains of coffee or loose bits of cotton,—anything that would be bought by the junk dealer; fishing out of the slop barrels at the St. Louis or St. Charles hotels a crust of bread, or picking up from the gutter half decayed fruit in order to escape starvation. In the March following he got employment with the cook of a Mississippi steamboat, and during this period a great change took place in his fortunes. A traveling gentleman, Henry S. Roberts, attracted by the bright appearance of the poor boy, soon learned his sad history, and took him with him to Ohio. A short period after giving him a home in his family, this kind friend also died, leaving the boy with his widowed mother, Mrs. Roberts, whose kindness and motherly love has found a full recompense, as the boy, when grown to manhood, has given this woman a home with him in her old age, where she is loved and revered as if she were indeed his own mother. For the next five or six years after reaching Ohio, Peters spent his time in farm work and odd jobs for his neighbors, working for a long time in the manufacture of brick. He was always something of a student, and while other boys spent their time at play he was devoted to his books, studying night after night by the uncertain light from the burning kiln. In 1860 he commenced teaching, in which he was eminently successful, and in which he continued until the cry of war was heard over the land, and the call for volunteers came. He promptly responded to the call, and enlisted as a private, April 23, 1861, in the Jefferson Guards of Springfield, Co. E, 16th Ohio; served in West Virginia; was at the battles of Phillippi, Laurel Hills and Carrick's Ford, at which latter place the first Confederate general (Garnett) was killed; served out the term and reënlisted

as a private, in December, 1861, at Xenia, Ohio, in the 74th reg. under Col. Granville Moody—the fighting parson. Walter Crook, brother of Gen. George Crook, of Indian notoriety, was captain. By him he was made orderly-sergeant of the company, and was soon afterward chosen by the company as lieutenant, and commissioned by Gov. Tod on January 7, 1862. Lieut. Peters was severely wounded at the battle of Stone River, Tennessee, December 31, 1862, and was thought to have been killed, and so reported at first, his comrades being obliged to desert him on the field. He survived, however, to fight another day, and suffered all the hardships incident to incessant campaigning. When Sherman started on his march to Atlanta, it began with a skirmish at Tunnel Hill, and was a continual battle for one hundred days before Atlanta fell. Peters was at this time adjutant of his regiment, having been appointed to that position by the colonel, on the reorganization of the 74th reg. as veterans. Adj. Peters was wounded early in the campaign, being struck with a fragment of shrapnel-shot while charging a rebel battery on Buzzard Roost mountain, May 9, 1864. On July 13, 1864, on recommendation of his colonel, he was promoted captain for “gallant and meritorious services.” While his comrades were gallantly bearing aloft the old flag, he lay, during the remainder of the summer, flat upon his back unable to move, suffering all but death; but a vigorous constitution and a stout heart triumphed, and at last enabled him to hobble upon crutches, and soon to walk with a cane only. Restless of such inactivity, he rejoined his command at Savannah, Georgia, though scarcely able to walk. He served through the Carolinas, and had many hair-breadth escapes. He was at the last battles fought by Sherman’s army at Bentonville and Averbysboro, and at Greenville, North Carolina, at the surrender of Gen. Joseph Johnston. His proudest day of military life was enjoyed at the grand review of the armies at Washington, May 24 and 25, 1865. Gen. George P. Buell, commanding the brigade, detailed Capt. Peters on his staff as assistant inspector-general, in which capacity he served until notified that his regiment was to be mustered out; then asking to be relieved, rejoined his comrades on their happy march home. But before being finally mustered out of service, he was commissioned major of his regiment, July 12, 1865,—major of the same regiment in which he enlisted as a private,—promoted, not through the assistance of influential friends or political favoritism, but on his own merit. In April, 1866, Maj. Peters came to Watseka and engaged in the hardware trade, but that business was unsuited to his tastes, so he sold out to his partner, Alex. Archibald, within a year. In the spring of 1867, he opened the first book and stationery store in Watseka, and in this business he continued

until November, 1879, when he turned over his stock to his worthy clerk, Henry H. Alter, who had served him faithfully for over ten years. Politically Maj. Peters was in his early days, and up to 1872, a republican; he continued to follow in the footsteps of Horace Greeley, whom he had been taught, from his first arrival in the north, not only to honor, but to love. He was, in the same year, nominated as a candidate for circuit clerk by the Greeley republicans, his nomination being indorsed by the democrats; but he was defeated, though by a largely reduced republican majority. In April, 1875, he was elected mayor of Watseka, and served two years to the entire satisfaction of the people, who again reelected him in October, 1877, to fill the unexpired term of Hon. Franklin Blades, who resigned to accept the circuit judgeship. In December, 1872, Maj. Peters took control of the "Iroquois Times," and for eighteen months ably managed its columns, but in July, 1874, he sold the "Times," having made it a very desirable property. He, however, repurchased the paper in July, 1878, and is its present editor and proprietor. Maj. Peters always took great pride and a very active interest in military matters, and was mainly instrumental in organizing the first militia company in Iroquois county, which was in May, 1874; of this company he was elected captain. When the military code of Illinois became the law, the various companies of the state were organized into regiments and battalions, the Watseka Rifles being designated as Co. A, 9th batt. I.N.G., and Capt. Peters was elected to command the battalion, by the line officers, who met at Champaign, Illinois, October 10, 1877, for that purpose. Hence his later title of colonel. Col. Peters was married to an accomplished young lady, Miss Clara M. Lyon, at Sycamore, Illinois, June 19, 1867, in the Congregational church, by Rev. J. T. Cook. Mrs. Peters is a fit companion for our worthy subject; of a charming disposition; she is very active, energetic, kind, generous and public-spirited; a lady of intellect and culture. In August, 1878, Col. Peters was nominated by a convention of the nationals as their candidate for member of the legislature, and in the following November was elected by a most flattering vote. He took a prominent part in the session of the thirty-first general assembly, and acquitted himself with great credit, having won the confidence and esteem of his fellow members, and Iroquois county was proud of her representative. Col. Peters is a very active and honored member of the order of Odd-Fellows, and has represented his lodge and encampment in the grand bodies of that order. Also a prominent member of the Knights of Honor; he represented his lodge in the grand lodge of this state, and in 1880 represented Illinois in the supreme lodge of the United States. Col. Peters is a gentleman of unbounded energy



and generosity, and there is no man living more public-spirited and benevolent than he is. As a business man he is very successful, and is held in great esteem by all the citizens of Iroquois county who are acquainted with him, and there is probably no man in the county better or more favorably known.

Mrs. Jemima Walters, Watseka, is the widow of the late Ephraim Walters, who was born in Perry county, Ohio, January 6, 1827. From Ohio he moved to Indiana, and was married to Miss Jemima Good in 1849. She was born in Perry county, Ohio. They moved to Ohio and remained there until 1865, when, with nine children, they moved to Illinois, and located in Iroquois county, on the present homestead. Here they commenced farming. While a resident here, Mr. Walters held several offices of public trust: township clerk and school director,—giving entire satisfaction. He was a man who was loved and respected. He died November 28, 1872, leaving a wife and twelve children to mourn his loss. He followed farming through life, and by hard labor and good management he had accumulated over 350 acres of land. The sons are now engaged in farming the land.

Alexander L. Whitehall, attorney-at-law, Watseka, is perhaps one of the best known and most highly honored attorneys of Iroquois county. He was born in Newton, Fountain county, Indiana, August 29, 1845, and is the son of Nicholas and Amelia (Stephens) Whitehall. Mr. Whitehall received a common-school education in the district schools in the winter months only, as his time was taken up in the summer in working on the farm. From the farm he entered the service. From the moment Sumter was fired on, young Whitehall, though under sixteen, was eager to enlist, but, as he was the main-stay of a family of six motherless children, his father refused permission, even when his patriotic boy could have had a good non-commissioned position. In September, 1864, chafing under the restraints of his father, he had determined to enlist at all hazards, and wishing to turn his knowledge of tactics to account, he had recruited thirteen men, and was trying to secure a lieutenancy, when his father was drafted, and did not refuse to allow his patriotic son to step into his shoes as a substitute. A neighbor offered young Whitehall \$1,200, a few moments before he was mustered in at the provost-marshal's office in La Fayette, if he would let his father shift for himself, and go as his substitute, which offer was indignantly refused. He had only been three days from home when a call for fifty recruits was made by the officer in charge of Camp Carrington to go to the 9th reg. Ind. Vet. Inf., and young Whitehall was the first to respond to the call, and urge his new found comrades to join a regiment that "had a history." He was informed

that he could stay at Camp Carrington as a drill-sergeant, but he replied that he had enlisted to go to the front, and proposed to see the "elephant." Five days after tearing himself from the five little brothers and sisters, who were nearly crazy with grief, he was in the heart of the Confederacy, as it existed in 1862,—Nashville. At Chattanooga, attracting the attention of Col. Doane, who was organizing a brigade of convalescents and substitutes, he was, despite his boyish appearance and small size, placed in command, as acting orderly-sergeant, of a company of forty-two men, and, while Hood was menacing Chattanooga, he and his company occupied a part of the defensive line of works around the city, and a few days later he marched through to Resaca, Georgia, still commanding his company. On arrival at Resaca, his battalion was broken up, and, at the head of fourteen recruits going to the 9th regiment, he went to Kingston, Georgia, and, not being allowed to go any further south with his squad, augmented to twenty-nine men, from other regiments, he went into camp for two days there. Learning the 4th corps was marching back to Chattanooga, he started back on a freight train, that was attacked by bushwhackers near Calhoun, and, under direction of Gen. Elliott, Whitehall took his men into a cornfield, and drove out a squad of rebels, killing one. At Chattanooga, two days later, he reported to his brigade commander, and three days after overhauled his regiment at Bridgeport, Alabama, it having just got in from an extended scout through the mountains of north Georgia. He and seven of his fourteen men were assigned to Co. F by Col. Suman, of the 9th, and his journal shows that, as a private soldier, he was from that forward on hand wherever his company went, through "thick and thin," marching from Athens, Alabama, to Pulaski, Tennessee; and then, as rear-guard of the retreating army of Thomas, to Spring Hill, taking part in the movements at Columbia and Duck River, and doing his whole duty as a soldier at Franklin, Tennessee, in one of the bloodiest engagements of the war, escaping unhurt, though getting his hat-rim shaved by a stray ball from the 77th Pennsylvania regiment in the rear, soon after the battle opened. In consequence of being barefooted at Pulaski, in the latter part of November, and "foraging" a pair of No. 10 brogans—"gunboats"—while loading stores the day of evacuation, which he tried to wear on a No. 4 foot while making a forty-mile march in fourteen hours back to Columbia, his ankles were terribly lacerated, and a month after pieces of yarn were taken out of the wounds on his ankles. At Franklin he was used up with sore feet, chronic diarrhœa, and had, with the rest of his comrades, been forty-eight hours without a wink of sleep, but for all that he and his brave comrades rendered a good

account of themselves, as the history of our late war will attest. While besieged at Nashville, the 9th regiment lay behind a stone parapet to the right and near Fort Negley. A few days before the battle a terrible storm of sleet and snow fell, and, as fuel was scarcely to be had, the men lying in their shelter-tents nearly froze to death, and Whitehall, in addition to the dysentery, which had reduced his "fighting weight" to ninety-six pounds, contracted a severe cold, which terminated in lung-fever, of which disease he had nearly died while at home the winter before. On December 15 he was so sick that he coughed nearly every step as he ran upon the charges, and yet he held his place in the front rank, and captured a prisoner in the final charge on the stone redoubt on the Granny White pike. In this charge he was thrown down while clambering through an embrasure of the fort, and that night his messmates reported to Capt. Stephens, his uncle, who came over from his division (the 3d) to learn the fate of his nephew, that "poor Aleck fell just as he got into the fort;" and they were surprised to find the "dead boy," who had wandered a part of the night alone over the battle-field, in his place at the foot of the company the morning of the second day's fight. In the battle on the 16th Corp. Beeson and Sergt. Porter were wounded on each side of Whitehall, the former touching him when struck by a piece of shell, and in the afternoon another comrade was struck, and, falling back, knocked Whitehall down. But he passed through unscathed, except the fever had so deep a hold of him that all night he was delirious, and kept the poor, brave boys of his mess awake nearly all night. Filled with excitement, he kept on with his regiment in the pursuit of Hood, to a point near Spring Hill, where, as his journal shows, he fell in a cramp and was carried to a negro cabin, and the next day rallied enough to scrawl a letter home, and send by a passing straggler to the mail office, saying: "I am dying with lung-fever in a negro cabin near Spring Hill. We whipped old Hood at Nashville badly, and the backbone of the Confederacy is broken. Good-by." He was finally taken into the post-hospital at Franklin, and from there sent to Nashville, and, though worn to a shadow, he still had the grit of a cub tiger, and Dr. Tuttle said of him at one time: "I believe, if that little boy there had been in his last gasp, and I had asked him how he felt, he would have said 'first rate.'" All the winter of 1865 he was confined most of the time to his bed, but was cheerful, and would sit on his cot and cut paper hangings, and then get the nurses to make paste, and hang them on the framework of the hospital tent until the surgeon and wardmaster, with a good deal of pride, several times brought ladies to examine the tent, and to see the little boy that had



planned to give it so homelike an appearance. Fred. Kimmer, the brawny German nurse, would pick up the poor, wasted boy in his arms and carry him as tenderly as a babe. In the spring, as he grew better, Chaplain Hoover had him deliver, in the chapel of the stone college in the grounds of Hospital No. 2, Nashville, a temperance lecture, and a temperance club was organized with Whitehall as secretary. He rejoined his regiment at Camp Harker in May, 1865, and, as head clerk of the brigade detachment, sent in the latter part of June, 1865, to Exchone barracks, Nashville, for muster out, he had the pleasure of filling out his own discharge, and July 3 he was mustered out and paid off at the Soldiers' Home, in Indianapolis. He returned to his home and remained there until 1865, when he came to Iroquois county, and taught school the first winter. The next summer he commenced farming on 30 acres of land, on which he raised 1,500 bushels of corn, and sold it for 20 cents per bushel. In 1867 he entered the Michigan University, at Ann Arbor, Michigan, from which school he graduated in 1869. He returned to Watseka in April, 1869, and formed a law partnership with J. C. Steely, and commenced the practice of law. This partnership lasted until 1871. Since then Mr. Whitehall has been alone in the practice of law. In 1872 Mr. Whitehall was elected state's attorney, in which office he gave entire satisfaction. In 1873 he formed a partnership with Mr. E. Bremhall, in the publication of the "Iroquois County Republican," which continued until 1876. Mr. Whitehall was married, in 1869, to Miss Alice Roberts. They have had two children, a son and a daughter.

James Wasson, brickmaker, Watseka, was born in Butler county, Ohio, January 18, 1827, where he remained until 1839, when he moved to Delaware county, Indiana. In 1844 he first commenced working in a brick-yard in Wayne county, Indiana, at \$8 per month. He worked in Wayne county about three years, and then went to Newcastle, Henry county, where he stayed six years. He subsequently removed to Muncie, Indiana, where he remained until 1865, when he moved to Iroquois county and located in Middleport. He commenced the manufacture of brick in 1866, in the yard south of his present brick-yard. At that yard he made brick for the present court-house, the brick school east of Chamberlain's, and other buildings. He moved to his present yard in 1869, where he had at one time a capacity for making 15,000 bricks per day. He now employs some six men, and finds sale for his brick in the surrounding country. Mr. Wasson was engaged about one year as a contractor in building the Chicago & Eastern Illinois railroad. Like most of the contractors engaged in the building of this railroad, he lost heavily, being out of pocket some \$12,000; but

with good management he worked through, and to-day is a successful business man.

Henry Sanders, Watseka, was born in England in 1815. He learned the shoemaker's trade at the age of fifteen, and served as an apprentice until twenty-one. In 1865 he came to America, and then came west to Illinois, and was a resident of Chicago a short time he then came to Iroquois county and engaged in farming; he went to Sheldon, and was working at his trade some four years. From there he moved to his present place, and he now occupies the house that was erected by the Courtright's; it is, perhaps, one of the first built in this neighborhood. Mr. Sanders was married, in London, England, to Miss Elizabeth Gellard; they have six children.

S. C. Munhall, postmaster, Watseka, was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, January 26, 1843, and is the son of Rev. William and Dorathy (Familton) Munhall. His mother was from England, and his father from Pennsylvania. At Urbana, Champaign county, Illinois, he learned the trade of a printer. He afterward went to Chicago, where he remained for a while, and then returned to Urbana and commenced the publication of a newspaper. He enlisted in Co. B, 76th Ill. Inf., and participated in the late civil war for three years, doing good service. In 1864 he was promoted to sergeant-major; in 1865 he was mustered out. He returned to Illinois in 1866, and came to Watseka, where he was deputy county clerk for eight years. In 1874 he was appointed postmaster of Watseka by Gen. Grant; in 1878, by President Hayes; this office he now holds. He was married, in October, 1867, to Miss Nancy Reese, of Pennsylvania; they have one child.

H. Dodge, retired, Watseka, was born in Montgomery county, New York, October 15, 1804, and is the son of Noah and Elizabeth (Venning) Dodge. His mother was a native of London, England, and his father of Massachusetts. Noah Dodge was a soldier of the revolutionary war. Mr. Dodge remained in New York state until 1832, engaged during the last seven years in clerking and carrying on mercantile business. In 1832 he went to Michigan, and located in Clinton. Here he entered the mercantile business, and was also engaged in the manufacture of fanning-mills,—the first made in that state. While a resident of Michigan, he was elected to the first legislature, and took an active part in organizing that state. He was very successful in his business, and at one time owned a large lot of land; but the panic of 1837 so crippled him, that in 1843 he was completely broken up. He then moved to Tippecanoe county, Indiana, and remained there until 1866, when he moved to Iroquois

county and located in Watseka, where he has been an honored member of its society. He was married, in Clinton, Michigan, December 19, 1833, to Miss Lydia O. Hooper, of Seneca county, New York. They have one child, a daughter, wife of Wm. S. Lingle, of La Fayette, Indiana. Joseph B. Lingle is now engaged in the study of law in Indianapolis under Gen. Ben Harrison, and will be admitted to the bar in 1880.

D. L. Jewett, physician, Watseka, was born in East Haddam, Connecticut, December 22, 1841, and is the son of Nathan and Lucretia (Stark) Jewett, natives of Connecticut. His father was a farmer. Dr. Jewett remained on the farm until he was about fourteen years of age. He received his principal education in his native state. In 1862 he graduated from the New York Medical College of Physicians and Surgeons. The same year he enlisted as surgeon of the 20th Conn. Vol. Inf., and served with that regiment during three years of the late civil war. This regiment was in some of the most severe battles with the army of the Potomac. In 1863 it came west with Gen. Joe Hooker, and participated in the battle of Lookout Mountain, known as the "battle above the clouds." The 20th Connecticut afterward was in a number of prominent battles in the western campaign. Dr. Jewett remained with his regiment until 1865, when he returned home east. In 1866 he came west, to Watseka, where he began the practice of medicine. Here he has remained ever since, and ranks among the leading physicians of Iroquois county. In 1870 he was appointed United States' inspecting surgeon, which place he fills at present. Dr. Jewett was married to Miss L. Brown, of Vermont. They have one child, a son.

Samuel R. Hawks, Watseka, was born in Franklin county, Massachusetts, May 2, 1811, and is the son of W. Hawks, of Massachusetts, who was engaged in farming. At the age of twenty-four he commenced to learn the trade of a stone and brick-mason. In 1835 he went to Genesee county, New York, where he remained until 1854. While a resident of that county he was married, in 1841, to Miss Betsey Dow. In 1854 they moved to Hillsdale, Michigan, where Mr. Hawks was engaged in business as a contractor and builder. He there erected the Hillsdale College, and one of the finest churches of that city. In 1866 he moved to Iroquois county, Illinois, and located at the present homestead, where he has been an honored resident ever since. He has represented in council the second district of Watseka, since 1872, with the exception of one year. Mr. Hawks was a strong republican in politics, but he is now a greenbacker, and is recognized as one of its leaders in Iroquois county. Mr. Hawks' daughter, Dr. Viola E. Archibald, is engaged in the practice of medicine, and is meeting with



very flattering success, receiving calls from all parts of Iroquois county. She was born in Livingston county, New York, and received her principal education at the Hillsdale College, of Hillsdale, Michigan. She attended a full course of lectures at the Eclectic Medical College, of Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1877. She began the practice of medicine the same year, and to-day is perhaps the only lady practicing medicine in Iroquois county. Dr. Archibald is vice-president of the eighth congressional district branch of the Illinois Society of Social Science. She was nominated, by the independent ticket, for county school superintendent, but was defeated.

Henry H. Alter, city clerk, Watseka, was born in Beaver, Beaver county, Pennsylvania, December 20, 1840, and is the son of Henry R. and Elizabeth (Weirich) Alter, who were born in Washington county, Pennsylvania. His father was engaged in farming, and his mother died when he was a young lad. He was then placed in the hands of his grandmother Weirich, who lived in Washington, Pennsylvania. Here Mr. Alter received his principal education. He began the study of medicine, in which profession he was engaged at the breaking out of the late civil war. In 1861 he enlisted at the first call for one hundred days, in Co. E, 12th reg. Penn. Vol. Inf., as private. He served full time, and was honorably mustered out in 1862. In 1863 and 1864 he was studying medicine, and was a student in the Medical School of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In 1864 he was appointed assistant-surgeon of the 52d reg. Vol. Inf., and served with this regiment for one year. This regiment participated in a number of skirmishes, and was at the battle of Nashville, Tennessee. In 1865 Mr. Alter returned to Pennsylvania, and the same year he came west. He was visiting in Iowa, and in 1866 he came to Watseka, where he has been a resident ever since. In 1870 he entered the book business. Mr. Alter has held several offices of public trust since he has been a resident of Watseka,—township clerk of Middleport, and city clerk of Watseka,—and has in each given entire satisfaction. Mr. Alter was married to Miss M. Roff, daughter of A. B. Roff, who was among the early settlers of Watseka. By this union they have one child, a daughter.

John M. Burton, county surveyor, Watseka, was born in Monroe county, March 16, 1838, and is the son of Henry W. and Martha (McDaniel) Burton; mother of North Carolina and father of Kentucky. When Mr. Burton was about eleven years of age, with his parents, he moved to Illinois, and located in Crete, Will county, where Mr. B. remained about seven years, and then moved to Kankakee city. In 1867 he moved to Iroquois county, on a farm in Papineau township, where he has been engaged in farming ever since. In 1871

Mr. Burton received the nomination and was elected to the office of county surveyor by the republican party. In 1875, becoming so popular and giving such satisfaction to all, he received the nomination from both parties, and was reëlected to the office without any opposition. Mr. Burton participated in the late civil war. He enlisted, in 1865, in Co. A, 156th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., which regiment did duty in Tennessee. He was discharged at the close of the war. Mr. Burton is a republican in politics.

Elmore Brimhall, Watseka, was born in McHenry county, Illinois, September 25, 1846, and is the son of the Rev. Samuel Brimhall, a Baptist preacher who was born in New York, and, when he became of age, learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed for a number of years. He was married, in Indiana, to Miss Caroline A. Mills, of Ohio. They moved to Henderson county, Illinois, where he was licensed to preach. They then went to New Boston, where he was regularly ordained as a preacher, and followed this for a number of years, preaching in different parts of Illinois. Mr. Brimhall remained with his father until the death of his mother, which occurred when he was almost thirteen years old. Afterwards he lived with his uncle, where he could school himself. This he did for a number of years. In 1865 he was engaged at work in a nursery, and in the same year went to Knoxville, Knox county, and entered a printing office, and began to learn the trade. At the end of the year he was the leading printer in the office of the "Knox Republican." From here he went to Peoria, where he worked at his trade in the "Peoria Democrat" office. He subsequently went west, and remained a short time. He returned to the office of the "Peoria Democrat," where he worked some six months more, when he received a letter offering him work in the office of the "Iroquois County Republican." So in 1867 he came to Watseka, and worked in that office for two years, when he went to St. Paul, and was engaged on state work some six months. From there he removed to Buffalo, and afterward entered the employ of the Lakeside Printing Company, of Chicago, where he remained some two years. He then commenced the job printing business, the firm being Brimhall & Smith, and doing business at No. 45 South Canal Street, where he remained about one year. In 1873, in company with Alex. L. Whitehall, he purchased the "Iroquois County Republican," and began the publication of that paper. In August, 1876, he purchased Mr. Whitehall's interest, and in August, 1877, he sold out his business in the newspaper, and at present is engaged in buying and selling real estate. Mr. Brimhall was married, in 1876, to Miss Dora Fenton.

Judge John Chamberlain, of Watseka, deceased, was born in Charleston, New Hampshire, October 24, 1803, and was the son of John C. Chamberlain, a leading practitioner at the New Hampshire bar. The subject of this memoir graduated from Dartmouth College in the class of 1823. On July 16, 1830, he was admitted to the bar in New York, and commenced practice at Albion, Orleans county. He rapidly rose to distinction, and from that time held high rank among the legal talent of the state. In the anti-Mason excitement of that period he went with his party friends—the democrats—spared their feelings, and was at a time their chief adviser, and gave efficient and distinguished aid in opposing the anti-Masons as a political party. Following this he served several terms in the New York general assembly. Through the failure of friends to whom he had loaned his credit for a large sum, he was induced to come west. In 1844 or 1845 he located at Bunkum, in this county, where he engaged largely in the stock and real estate business. In 1847 he was an unsuccessful candidate, against Judge Jesse O. Norton, of Joliet, for delegate to the constitutional convention from the counties of Iroquois and Will. In 1849 he was elected the first county judge of Iroquois county, for four years, which office he filled three consecutive terms. In 1853 he moved to the town of Middleport, then the county seat of Iroquois county. He was married, in 1856, to Mrs. O. L. Hood, who was born in Byron, Genesee county, New York, June 2, 1822. Three children, two daughters and a son, were the issue of this union, but only one, Orra N., the oldest child, survives him; the other two died in infancy. Judge Chamberlain died in Watseka, December 16, 1866, universally regretted.

Dr. W. S. Browne, physician, Woodland, was born in Madison county, Indiana, March 2, 1844, and is the son of L. D. and Nancy (Harland) Browne. His father, a farmer, was a native of Virginia, and moved to Indiana at an early day. Here, on the farm, our subject worked during the summer, and in the winter months attended the district schools, receiving a good common-school education, and fitting himself for the Michigan University at Ann Arbor, Michigan. Here he attended a medical course, and also at Cincinnati and at the Rush Medical College, of Chicago. Dr. Browne received two diplomas. In 1868 he went to Watseka and began the practice of medicine, where he remained but a short time; when he went to Anderson, Indiana, and there was engaged in the drug business in connection with his practice. In 1872 he came to Woodland, where he has been meeting with good success in his chosen profession.

Robert Zemple, grain and hardware merchant, is the junior member



in the firm of Messrs. Rosenberg & Zemple, prominent business men of Woodland, who do a general hardware and grain business. They are both also connected with the grain firm of S. Williams & Co., of Woodland, who are extensive grain dealers. Mr. Zemple was born in Prussia, Germany, and moving to America, in 1868, first located in Iroquois county, where he remained about one year; he then went to Chicago, where he remained some seven years, and again returned to Iroquois county and located in Papineau, where he was engaged in clerking and in the commission business. In 1876 he came to Woodland and has since remained here.

Ben R. South, restaurateur and confectioner, Watseka, was born in New Albany, Indiana, October 8, 1843, where he remained until 1856, when he came with his parents and located in Iroquois county on a farm. Here he was engaged in farming until 1862, when he enlisted in the late civil war, in Co. K, 76th Ill. Vol. Inf., as private for three years or during the war. He remained with the 76th until 1863, when he was taken sick and sent to the hospital at Memphis, Tennessee, and thence to St. Louis, Missouri, where he was taken sick with the small-pox; in 1863 he was transferred to the Veteran Reserve corps, and then sent to Indianapolis, Indiana, where he served as orderly until July, 1865, when he was honorably discharged. He returned to the old homestead in Iroquois county, where he remained until 1868, engaged in farming. He then came to Watseka, and was made deputy sheriff under his brother, A. H. South. In 1869 Mr. South went to Missouri, where he was engaged in farming until 1872, when he returned to Watseka, which has been his home ever since. In April, 1878, he began the restaurant and confectionery business, in which business he is at present engaged. At his establishment everything is in neat order; he is located south of the Toledo, Peoria & Warsaw depot. Mr. South was assistant marshal of Watseka for several years. He is a republican in politics.

John T. Pierson, sheriff of Iroquois county, Watseka, was born in Marion county, Ohio, September 25, 1850, and is the son of Thomas and Margaret Ann (Fickle) Pierson, both natives of the Buckeye state. His father, Thomas Pierson, was a farmer and stock raiser in Ohio. In 1868, with family, he came to Iroquois county, and located on a farm in Artesia township. Here he followed farming. In 1874 he was elected sheriff of Iroquois county, and he appointed as deputy his son, John T., the subject of this sketch. Mr. Pierson served two years as sheriff of Iroquois county. He is now engaged in the stock business at the Union Stock Yards, Chicago. In 1876 Jacob Shear was elected sheriff of the county, with Mr. John T. Pierson as deputy

sheriff. In filling the office of deputy sheriff for four years Mr. Pierson gave entire satisfaction, having proven himself a man of acknowledged ability. He won a host of friends, and in 1878 was nominated and elected to the office of sheriff of Iroquois county by the green-back party. This office he now fills. Mr. Pierson's first vote was cast for U. S. Grant for president. Since then he has been liberal in his politics. In 1877 Mr. Pierson was constable of Watseka.

Charles G. Culver, merchant, Watseka, is one of the best known and most highly respected business men of Watseka. He was born in Washington county, New York, October 8, 1840. His parents are Nathan and Eliza (Gilmore) Culver, both natives of New York. His father was a farmer. On the farm Mr. Culver remained until he was about sixteen years of age. In 1857 he took Horace Greeley's advice and came west. He located first in Sandwich, DeKalb county, Illinois, and there entered one of the leading dry-goods houses as clerk. At the breaking out of the late civil war, when Fort Sumter was fired upon, he enlisted in Co. H, 7th Ill. Vol. Inf. This company was the first company that reported for duty at Chicago, in Illinois. The 7th was commanded by Col. Dick Oglesby. This regiment was ordered to Cairo, Illinois, where it did duty for three months. Being a three-months regiment, it was then mustered out. Mr. Culver then reënlisted for three years in Co. H, 105th Ill. Vol. Inf., as orderly-sergeant. He participated in some of the most severe battles of the war: Resaca, Atlanta (known as the one-hundred-day fight), Peach Tree Creek, with Sherman's march to the sea, through the swamps of the Carolinas, on to Washington, where he participated in the grand parade at Washington, D. C. Mr. Culver entered Co. H as orderly-sergeant; from that he was appointed to second lieutenant, then first lieutenant, and when he was transferred from Co. H to Co. C, he was made captain, which office he filled some eighteen months. He was a brave soldier. He never lost a day from duty, served full time, and was honorably mustered out at Washington in 1865 at the close of the war. He returned to Sandwich, Illinois, and entered the general merchandising business. In 1869 he came to Watseka and commenced his present business. In 1878 Mr. Culver was elected supervisor of Middleport township, which office he filled with marked ability. He is a republican in politics, being a member of the republican state central committee. Mr. Culver was married in Sandwich, DeKalb county, Illinois, to Miss Maria Barnes, of New York. They have one child, a son.

L. W. Roberts, dentist, Watseka, was born in Kentucky, near Lexington, January 14, 1843, and is the son of the Rev. Richard B.

Roberts. Mr. Roberts moved with his parents to Indiana when he was very young; and moved with his father and family on the circuit through Indiana, his father being a preacher. In 1862, during the late civil war, he enlisted from Kokomo, Indiana, in Co. I, 21st Ind. Vol. Inf., which was transferred to Co. L, 1st Ind. Artillery; he enlisted for three years. This artillery did service at New Orleans and Baton Rouge, Louisiana; he was honorably discharged on account of sickness. Dr. Roberts commenced the study of dentistry in 1858; he practiced at Valparaiso, Indiana, and Fairmount, Illinois. In 1869 he came to Watseka and began the practice of his profession. He is meeting with very good success; his office is located over C. G. Culver's store.

J. J. Carlock, merchant, Watseka, was born in McLean county, Illinois, November 24, 1829, and is the son of Reuben and Amy (Jones) Carlock, who immigrated to Illinois, and located in Dry Grove, McLean county, in 1827. His father, who was born in 1795, died in 1856; he was a soldier of two wars,—the war of 1812, and the Black Hawk war of 1832. His wife, Amy (Jones) Carlock, is still living, in Woodford county, at the good old age of eighty-two years; she is a pensioner of the war of 1812. Mr. Carlock remained on the farm in McLean and Woodford counties, engaged in farming and stock dealing, until 1869, when he moved to Iroquois county and located in Belmont township; here he remained until 1876, when he moved to Watseka. He has been engaged in the lumber business. He was married, in Woodford county, to Miss Susan Allen, of Blooming Grove, daughter of Isaac Allen, who was an early settler of McLean county; they have four children.

Judge Manliff B. Wright, county judge, Watseka, whose portrait appears in this work, is one of the leading and prominent men of Iroquois county; and, while speaking of some of the old settlers and prominent men of Iroquois county, a short sketch of his life is most appropriate as one of the latter. He is a native of the province of Ontario, Canada—Kemptville, Greenville county, being his native town, where he was born April 6, 1839; and is the son of Frederick and Sarah (Parkinson) Wright, both natives of Canada. The early part of the judge's life was spent at his native place. In 1856 he came west and located in the town of Henry, Marshall county, Illinois. At Sparland in that county, from 1862 to 1866, he was engaged in the mercantile trade. Turning his attention, however, to the study of law he, in 1868, was admitted to practice at the Illinois bar; and in 1869 he removed to Iroquois county and located at Watseka, where he has since resided. At the Iroquois county bar his natural talent



and ability soon won for him respect and distinction. In 1873 he was nominated and elected by the independents to the office of county judge, receiving a majority of 1,250 votes; in 1877 he was reëlected to the same office by the greenback party, with a majority of 906 votes; in 1879 he was the nominee of the democrat and greenback party for the circuit judgeship, but was defeated by the republican nominee, Franklin Blades. In the discharge of his duties as a public officer Judge Wright has been and is both honorable and conscientious, allowing neither political nor personal prejudice to warp his judgment or sway his decision when the liberty or property of another is at stake: but being governed by a high sense of honor, his decisions have been just; by this course he has only increased his already enviable reputation. In 1874 he was married, in Chatsworth, Livingston county, Illinois, to Miss Helen E. Hoyt, formerly of Henry, Illinois. They have three children, two daughters and one son.

Burlew & Smith, wagon and carriage makers, Watseka, compose one of the leading firms engaged in the manufacture of wagons and carriages. Mr. J. E. Burlew was born in Pennsylvania, where he learned the trade of a blacksmith. He came west and was engaged at his trade at Plainfield, Will county. Some ten years ago he came to Middleport and engaged in the blacksmith business with Mr. C. W. Smith. He then came to Watseka and was engaged in business in the shop in the rear of Wade's hardware store. In 1876 he came to his present shop. Mr. L. N. Smith is a native of New Jersey. He learned the trade of a wagon-maker in Rockaway, New Jersey. In 1872 he came west, and was for a short time working in Danville and Indianapolis, and finally came to Watseka. These gentlemen occupy a building, size 20×30 feet, two stories high. They are doing a good business and employ three hands.

Henry Upsall, jeweler, Watseka, is the oldest watchmaker and jeweler of Watseka. He first came here in 1870. Ever since that date he has held a leading though unostentatious position as a business man of the city, and done a gradually increasing business, until to-day there is hardly a man, woman or child within many miles but knows Henry Upsall. He is a practical and thoroughly educated watchmaker and jeweler, and no doubt this has contributed largely to the success he has attained. He has had practical experience in his business for over thirty years, learning his trade in England, and makes a specialty of repairing fine time pieces, large numbers of which the public have confidence in entrusting in his hands. Henry Upsall was born in Lincolnshire, England, December 25, 1830, and is the son of Henry Upsall, who was a fisherman. At fifteen years of age he commenced to learn



*M. B. Wright*

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his trade with his uncle in Boston, England. He served as an apprentice for five and a half years. In 1857 he sailed for America and landed in New York city. He came directly west to Indiana and located in Kosciusko county and worked at his trade. He saved sufficient money to purchase a farm, on which he remained until 1863, when he enlisted in the late civil war in the 23d Ind. Art. for three years, but, on account of disability, he was honorably discharged. He returned to Indiana, where he worked at his trade in Leesburgh and Warsaw until 1870, when he came to Watseka and commenced to work for W. P. Stephens at \$18 per week. In 1872 he commenced business for himself, and since then he has been meeting with good success. To-day he owns a large, well stocked jewelry store that would be a credit to a large city. Mr. Upsall is a fine scholar in astrology, and is known as such throughout America. He is the owner of some old works on astrology, one published in 1652 and restored by William Ramsey. Mr. Upsall's father and mother, Henry and Maria (Wallhead) Upsall, are both living in England. His father's age is eighty-eight years; his mother's seventy-six. He has one brother and one sister in Australia; one brother and two sisters in England. His brother John, who came with him to America, died a soldier, in 1863, at Cairo, Illinois, during the late civil war.

Alexander Gillfillan, merchant, is one of the leading business men of Watseka. He was born in Ross county, Ohio, February 12, 1850. In 1854, with his parents, he moved on a farm in Madison county, Indiana. Here he remained until 1870, working on the farm. From Madison county he came to Watseka, and entered the store of Daniel Fry as clerk. He then occupied the position of clerk with C. G. Culver. In 1878 he entered the mercantile business for himself, and to-day is doing a good business, occupying a large room 20×80 feet, located next to Arnold's drug store.

Z. Hockett, tile and flower-pot manufacturer, Watseka, was born in Clinton county, Ohio, in 1820. His first experience in the manufacture of tile began in his native county, where he made the first ever manufactured in Clinton county. When he first began business his tile factory was the only one in the county, but after remaining in business for seven years there were fourteen there. In 1871 Mr. Hockett came to Iroquois county and located in Ash Grove, where he commenced the drug business, which he followed until 1875, when he came to Middleport. In 1875 he commenced his present business. He has one tile machine of the latest pattern, patented by his brother, A. Hockett. The factory has one kiln, size 13×16. The drying-shed is 132×22. The dirt is near the factory in abundance, and of a

superior quality. He receives orders from the immediate vicinity, and ships quite an amount. He makes all the standard sizes, 3, 4, 5 and 6. Mr. Hockett is also engaged very extensively in manufacturing flower-pots. This firm is Z. Hockett & Son, and their flower-pots are pronounced the best quality in the market. They get their clay from the Iroquois river and cart it to their factory, where it is well mixed, and then molded into pots of from one and a half to seventeen inches inside. These goods are of a bright cream color, and are easily disposed of in the leading markets, Bloomington, La Fayette, Indianapolis and Terre Haute, their orders amounting to as high as 10,000 flower-pots at a time. Mr. Z. Hockett was alderman from his district one term. He married Lucinda Bundy, of Ohio, and they have nine children. Mr. Hockett has three sons working in the factory. He had one son in the late war, Lewis, who enlisted in the 79th Ohio, and did good service for three years and was honorably mustered out.

Held Bros., butchers, Watseka, own one of the neatest, best arranged and most attractive meat-markets in Iroquois county. They are practical butchers of life-long experience, and have the reputation of exposing for sale the finest quality of all kinds of meats, through which, and their fairness of prices and strict probity in business transactions, they have secured there a paying trade. They have for their use a large ice-box, which cost them \$300, for the storing of their meats. John Held was born in Germany, April 11, 1844. Lewis Held was born in Germany, March 30, 1850. They emigrated to America and landed in New York city in 1865, and came direct to Illinois and located in Chicago; here they were engaged in the butcher business and remained until 1871, when they came to Watseka, where they have been engaged ever since in the butcher business, and to-day are the oldest butchers doing business in Watseka. Their parents are Chris. and Mary Margaret Held, both natives of Germany.

John Fagan, Watseka, is the pioneer harness-maker of Iroquois county. He was born March 29, 1822, in Greene county, Ohio. He commenced to learn the trade of a harness-maker when fourteen years of age, in Xenia, Ohio, where he served an apprenticeship of six years. He worked at his trade in Xenia until 1847, when he went to La Fayette, Indiana, where he worked at his trade, and remained there until 1848, when he returned to Xenia. He then went to Williamsport, then to Attica, and subsequently to Danville, Illinois, where he worked at his trade until 1849. He then came to Middleport, Iroquois county, and commenced the harness business, being the first harness-maker to establish in business in Iroquois county. At Middleport and Watseka he has been engaged in business ever since,

with the exceptions of 1868, 1869 and 1870, when he was in business in Champaign county, Illinois. In 1877 he moved to his present stand, which is located on the corner next to the First National Bank building. When Mr. Fagan first commenced business in Middleport his customers came from far and wide. He did work for people as far away as Joliet, Will county, and also in neighboring counties. Mr. Fagan was married in Middleport, in 1852, to Miss Caroline Hogle, of Vermont, and they have two children.

W. A. Mott, confectioner and restaurant-keeper, Watseka, was born in Kankakee county, Illinois, June 4, 1851, and is the son of Gardner Mott, who was born in Canada, and at an early day moved to Illinois, where he was engaged at the carpenter's trade. He came to Kankakee city and helped to build the first frame house in that place. In Kankakee city the subject of this sketch remained a short time, and then, with his parents, moved to Momence, where his mother died when he was about three years of age. From Momence he went to Champaign county, where he remained until he was about ten years of age, when he went to Berrien county, Michigan. He returned to Momence, and in 1871 he came to Watseka, where he entered Doyle's wagon-shop and learned the painter's trade. This he followed until 1875, when he embarked in the mercantile business. Mr. Mott was married, in 1878, to Miss Mary Weston, of England, who came to America when very young.

T. B. Harris, state's attorney, Watseka, was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, February 28, 1844, and is the son of Sidney W. and Mary (Bronson) Harris. His mother was born in Ohio, and his father in Vermont. Sidney Harris was a lawyer, who graduated from the Cincinnati Law School. He practiced law at Cincinnati, and in 1855, with his family, moved to Illinois and located in Morris, Grundy county. He became one of the leading attorneys of that vicinity. He was elected judge of the then eleventh judicial circuit, which office he held about five years. He died in Morris, September, 1876, at sixty-one years of age. Mr. Harris, the subject of this sketch, in 1855, came west with his parents, to Morris, Illinois. In August, 1862, during the late civil war, Mr. Harris enlisted in Co. D, 91st Ill. Vol. Inf. He was immediately appointed sergeant-major, which position he filled until December 5, 1864, when he was made adjutant of the 91st, in which he served until July, 1865. Mr. Harris participated in several severe engagements: at the siege and capture of Mobile; in the capture of the Blakeley batteries—this was the last battle fought during the war. Lee surrendered his army April 9, at ten o'clock. The battle at the capture of the Blakeley batteries was fought the same day, which was,



perhaps, the most severe fought battle of the war. It lasted ten minutes, and during that time the Union forces lost 600 men. They captured 3,000 prisoners, the Blakeley batteries and the city of Mobile. Mr. Harris was captured by the notorious guerilla, John Morgan, and remained a paroled prisoner about five months. He was finally exchanged at the close of the war. Mr. Harris returned to Morris, where he began the study of law with his father. He was a student in the Wayland University, of Michigan. In 1867 he was admitted to the bar, and began the practice of law at Morris, where he remained until 1872, at which date he came to Watseka, where he has been engaged in the practice of law ever since, and to-day he ranks among the leading attorneys of the Iroquois county bar. In 1876 he was elected by the democrats and greenbackers to the office of state's attorney of Iroquois county. He was elected by 75 majority, being the only one elected on that ticket. In this office Mr. Harris is giving entire satisfaction. He is a democrat in politics. He was married, in 1868, to Miss Hettie L. Roseman, of Ohio, and they have two children.

Free P. Morris, attorney-at-law, Watseka, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 19, 1853, and is the son of Charles and Sarah (Thomas) Morris, both natives of the Keystone State. Mr. Morris' father was engaged in the coal business in Pennsylvania, and in 1863 came west with his family and located in Cook county, Illinois. From there he moved to Chicago, thence to Iroquois, Iroquois county. Mr. Free P. Morris came west with his parents to Cook county, Illinois, and at the Northwestern University at Evanston he received his principal education. He graduated from that school in 1872, having attended a course of law lectures while a student there. He then went to Chicago and began the reading of law in the office of T. S. McClelland, Esq., a prominent attorney of the Cook county bar. In 1874 Mr. Morris was admitted to practice law at the Illinois state bar. He then came to Watseka and began the practice of law, where he has remained ever since. Mr. Morris is a democrat in politics.

Dr. D. E. Sabin, druggist, Woodland, was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, near Zanesville, in 1834. He came west to Illinois in 1856, and began the drug business in Piper city, where he remained for a number of years, doing a leading business in the drug line. In February, 1877, Dr. Sabin came to Woodland and purchased the drug store of Brown & Endicott, which business he is now carrying on, owning one of the neatest and best stocks of drugs in the vicinity. Dr. Sabin commenced the practice of medicine in 1867, and attended lecture courses at the Eclectic College of Cincinnati, Ohio.

J. S. Near, physician, Watseka, was born near Chambersburg,

Pennsylvania, March 16, 1848, and is the son of Robert E. Near, a cabinet-maker by trade, but now engaged in farming in Lee county, Illinois. When three years of age, Dr. Near came to Ohio and received his principal education at Akron Seminary. In 1865 he came to Illinois, and located in Joliet, and began the study of medicine in 1871 under Dr. C. W. Williams, a leading physician of Joliet. In 1876 he graduated from the Hahnemann Medical College of Chicago, one of the leading medical colleges of the Northwest. Dr. Near began practice at Joliet, and from there he went to Frankfort Station, where he remained until 1878, and then came to Watseka, where he is meeting with good success in the practice of medicine.

Hockett Brothers, furniture dealers, Watseka, have been in business in Watseka, since November, 1878, during which time they have exhibited an amount of caution and care in their business transactions, that to-day they rank among the solid men of Watseka. Their store is located on the main business street, and has a front of twenty-five feet and a depth of about fifty-five feet. Their salesrooms are nicely arranged, and in them are goods to suit all tastes and purses. These gentlemen buy their furniture mostly in the white; they buy from the best manufacturers in the country, and goods can be bought from them as cheap as in large cities. The firm of Hockett Brothers is composed of L. C. Hockett, who was born in Clinton county, Ohio, August 13, 1846. He has had a number of years' experience in the furniture business in Ohio. In 1862 he enlisted in Co. F, 88th Ohio Vol. Inf., as corporal, and served until the close of the late war. He participated in the battles of Dutch Gap and the siege of Richmond, Virginia. He was a brave soldier and did good duty, and was honorably mustered out in 1865. J. B. Hockett was also born in Clinton county, Ohio.

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## MILFORD TOWNSHIP.

Milford, meaning Ford-at-the-mill, is one of the oldest settled townships in Iroquois county. For this reason its settlement is historically interesting. At the time of its settlement it formed a part of Vermilion county, and was the only settlement, except Bunkum (now Iroquois), between North Fork and Chicago.

Milford is situated in the southeastern part of Iroquois county, and is bounded on the north by Belmont, on the east by Stockland, on the south by Lovejoy, and on the west by Ash Grove. It is described in the original survey as town 25 north, range 12 west of the 2d principal meridian. The north tier of sections in this township is each

about two and a half miles long. Owing to the bungling manner in which the first survey was made, many irregularities occur in the section lines of this and adjoining townships. On the south side a discrepancy of about fifty-seven steps exists between the section lines of townships 24 and 25. These irregularities in Iroquois county are found principally south of the north line of the tier of townships numbered 25. So irremediable were these blunders, and to prevent their continuation, an arbitrary line was established, constituting the north line of this tier of townships, and forming a new base line from whence the surveys to the north were measured. The strip of land south of this line was included in the north tier of sections, hence their unusual length, the northeast and northwest quarters being respectively divided into eight lots of about eighty acres each, and numbered accordingly.

The earliest settlement in Milford, of which any account can be obtained, was made in the timber on the banks of Sugar creek, in the spring of 1830. Some traces of an earlier settlement were found, but by whom made, or at what time, it is impossible to ascertain. Indeed, some of the information given by the few old settlers still living is somewhat obscure and uncertain, but it is believed that the statements here given can be relied upon as generally correct.

Early in the year 1830, Samuel Rush, Robert Hill and Elisha Miles emigrated from Indiana and settled upon land in the northern part of the township. Mr. Rush, indeed, claimed that he was the first white settler, and it is said that he was here in the fall of 1829. However this may be, it is nearly certain that these families came into the town at nearly the same time. Mr. Rush settled on the west side of the creek, in section 4; Hill established himself on the east side, in section 3, and Miles located in the same belt of timber, not far from Hill. During this year other settlers moved into the township. Daniel Barbee settled on what was afterward called Barbee's Run, near where Henry Fanning now lives. Two others are mentioned: Thomas J. Mountz and Joseph Cox. These settlers, however, together with Miles and Hill, did not remain many years, but sold their claims to others who came into the county, of whom mention will presently be made. James Singleton, an Indian trader and trapper, an unmarried man of a taciturn disposition, is mentioned as living with the Indians in this township when the first permanent settlers came; but he, together with Abram Miller and Joseph Reading, departed in a year or two, and no trace of them remains.

In the fall of 1830 a large accession was made to the population by the coming of the Stanleys from Clinton county, Ohio. Anthony



Stanley, the father, entered a claim and built a cabin on the northwest quarter of the northeast quarter of section 15, on the east side of a spring branch. William Stanley, who was married, made a claim on the southwest part of section 10, near the bank of Sugar creek, and erected a log house, but deeming the location to be an unhealthy one, sold out his claim to William Cox, who arrived the next spring. He then took up a claim covering a portion of the ground where the village now stands, and built a cabin just south of the present school-house. John Stanley, another married son, located some distance west of his father's place and also commenced opening a farm. It must be remembered that the land in this township was not yet subject to entry. The unmarried children of Anthony Stanley were Micajah, Isaac, Elizabeth and Rebecca. Micajah was married some time later, and built a cabin on a hillock west of his father's house, on the place now occupied by John Hollander. Rebecca married John Gray, a son of William Gray, who in 1833 built a cabin on section 14, just east of Milford village; John Gray opened a farm on the northeast quarter of section 24. Elizabeth married a Mr. Chamberlain, who located on section 23. Isaac did not live many years after coming into the township. With the Stanleys came William Pickerel, who located on the north side of the creek, near where the mill now stands; he was a blacksmith, and his shop stood near the spot now occupied by Wingfield Cooper's stable. Reuben Gardner at the same time settled on the south side of the creek. All these settlers were Quakers. Singleton and Reading, before mentioned, had built a cabin on the north side of the creek, southwest of Stanley's house. Miller also built a cabin on the south side. The parents of Singleton, an aged and infirm couple, lived in his cabin in 1831; no one seemed to know anything about them.

In the spring of 1831 other settlers began to arrive. Many of these were from Ohio and Indiana. Prominent among them were Asa Thomas and family, William Thomas, and William and Lemuel Johns. Mr. Thomas was a native of Maryland. He had at an early age removed to Kentucky, where he learned the trade of brick and stone mason. He afterward came to Ohio. Here he married and remained several years. Mr. Thomas and his brother William both served in the war of 1812, and were at Hull's surrender. In the spring of 1830 they moved to Indiana and raised a crop of corn. In the winter following the two brothers, Asa and William, together with the Johns brothers, came to Milford and built two log cabins on section 14. Returning to their families, they all made preparations to move, which was accomplished with ox-teams in the spring of 1831. Asa Thomas had a

numerous family of children. He remained on this claim for nearly two years, and when the land came into market he was "entered out" by an "enterprising settler." He then removed south of Sugar creek, and located on the Mud, a tributary of Sugar creek. It may seem strange that none of the early settlers located on the prairie, but at that time it was believed that the prairie was unfit for cultivation. This opinion was, however, soon exploded, and large tracts of prairie land were entered. Lemuel and William Johns settled further up the creek, near the east side of section 14. Here Mrs. Johns discovered an excellent spring. This is now known as the "Cleaver Place." They came from Adams county, Ohio. William Johns broke and fenced 80 acres, and then sold to Nathan Cleaver. He next entered a tract of 120 acres of timber in section 4, which was afterward sold to Col. Thomas Vennum. Both the brothers afterward moved into Belmont, where Lemuel died. Mention is also made of John and Hiram Miles as well as of several others, who came during this year; but no reliable information can be obtained regarding them, and it is presumed that they remained but a short time and then, anticipating Horace Greeley's advice, "went west."

Another actor in this work of pioneering was Chancey Webster. Mr. Webster located in the edge of the timber, north of Johns, on land now owned by Elijah Bunnell. He afterward settled on lot 5 in the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 4. Here he constructed a dam in the bend of the creek, and erected a small saw and grist mill which was soon after burnt. His daughter married Richard Scott. Mr. Webster was a zealous Methodist, and occasionally preached. He was among the earliest to interest himself in the religious work of the community. Other settlers are also deserving of notice. Among them were Samuel McFall and a Mrs. Parker. McFall sold 200 acres of land in 1842 to Richard Scott, who still occupies the same. Mrs. Parker came from Indiana with her children, her husband being dead, and settled on land to the west of McFall and nearer the creek. She seems to have been a woman of great energy and business capacity, for to farming she added the business of dealing in live-stock. She it was who, on hearing the report of hostile Indians, sent her son to warn the settlers living above her along Sugar creek.

The period between the years 1831 and 1833 was indeed one of peculiar trial and hardship to the settlers. The country swarmed with Indians, who, although quite friendly and generally peaceable, were often too socially inclined, and constantly begging or wanting to barter for sugar, meat, flour or meal, supplies with which the settlers at the best were scantily provided. Besides, their uncouth manners and for-

bidding appearance were calculated to keep up a constant state of apprehension. No wonder, then, that when, in 1832, during the Indian war, an alarm was raised that the Sauk Indians were actually advancing southward from the Fox river, murdering all within their reach, the settlers were ready to take counsel of their fears and fly before an imaginary foe. One or two families on Fox river had actually been murdered, and two girls carried into captivity. The accounts given of the cause of this famous "scare" are somewhat conflicting, yet the fact remains that to the settlers, in their unprotected condition, it was a "fearful reality." The time is not clearly indicated, but it was evidently about "planting time" in the year 1832, and in the latter part of the day, when the report spread with wonderful rapidity along Sugar creek: "The Indians! The Indians! Fly for your lives!" At the Thomas settlement it was added: "They have killed everybody north of us." The Stanleys were planting corn in a field where now is the village. The Thomases were also at work distant from their house. Mrs. Stanley was at home, and on hearing the report from Mrs. Parker's son, immediately started for the field to notify the others. William Stanley had just driven his team to his house (south of the present school-house). Hastily throwing some blankets and provisions into the wagon, Mr. Stanley, with the women and children, immediately started for Walnut Grove, driving the entire night and reaching the grove by morning. Micajah and Isaac returned from the field to their home, and, turning loose the stock, Micajah mounted a horse and pushed after the fugitives, Isaac going up to Pickerel's house. The Stanleys had better means for flight than most of the others. The Thomases, with others, started for Parrish Grove, which they also reached by morning. In this company there was but one horse, and this Mrs. Thomas, who was a corpulent woman, was obliged to ride; the others were obliged to walk. There were no roads, and these weary fugitives could only guess at their route. All through the night the shouts and cries of the frightened people from the different settlements could be heard, as they made their way across the trackless prairie amid the gloom and darkness. It was indeed a dreadful night; women and children, young and old, most of them on foot, with insufficient clothing, hurrying from what they believed to be a dreadful fate. Those who were young then are old now, yet the memory of that fearful night can never be effaced from their minds. Of course the alarm was a false one, and many a laugh is indulged as the scenes of the flight are vividly recalled. The settlers soon returned, but to many the consequences were serious, and doubtless some never entirely recovered from the fright. There were two families who did not leave—Miles



and Moore. These men had been engaged in many Indian fights in the war of 1812, and they could not be induced to go, although their families begged hard for them to do so. Micajah Stanley nearly lost his life. After leaving the house, as he came out on the prairie, he met a peddler, who had reached William Stanley's house after the family had left. Hearing the report, he had mounted his horse and was pushing after the fugitives when he saw Micajah, and in the gloom supposed him to be an Indian; he was on the point of shooting him when he discovered who he was. The route taken by William Stanley led to a ford two or three miles above Milford. As he was driving up the opposite bank, he thought he saw two Indians, who seemed to slip back into the brush as his wagon came into view. He had already considered the probability of the Indians waylaying the fugitives at this point, and, seeing these, he imagined that his surmise was correct. Much alarmed, his father and brother immediately jumped from the wagon and commenced a search. The supposed Indians turned out to be Pickerel and Isaac Stanley, who, having fled by a different way, had met them at this point. In the Thomas party a mother and child nearly perished before they could be rescued from a sink-hole filled with water into which they had fallen. When this party reached Parrish Grove, about daylight, they saw some soldiers who were encamped there, and this caused another alarm, for many supposed them to be Indians. The Thomas boys and some others here first heard the sound of a fife and drum. It is said that all this alarm and flight was caused by a man who saw a party of friendly Indians riding rapidly out of a grove near Bunkum, and imagining them to be hostiles, had rushed away and spread the alarm. Another story was that a mail-carrier had been chased by some Indians. Soon after this stampede, in consequence of the many rumors of Indian depredations, and to provide against further trouble on that account, Gen. Brown came down into the Wabash country and raised a company of mounted men. They came to Milford on their way northward, and encamped on the bottom between Anthony Stanley's house and the creek. The troops remained until next day, Gen. Brown staying at Stanley's house, when they left for Fort Dearborn.

Many incidents connected with the Indians living on Sugar creek are related by the settlers. These Indians were principally Pottawatomes. Several hundred Kickapoos were also encamped at Crab Apple Grove, now in Stockland. The Indians never gave the settlers any serious trouble, nor were they given to stealing; yet they were very fond of whisky, and whenever a supply could be obtained, would "go on a spree." The "Blue Ribbon" movement had not been heard of;

still, it was not an easy matter for them to get whisky, as those who kept it were very careful in this matter. There was, however, a small grocery in the neighborhood, and to this the Indians usually resorted when they wanted a supply. On occasions of this kind, i.e. "going on a drunk," the squaws invariably took away all knives and other weapons, and carefully hid them, so that no serious mischief could arise from that source—a practice that might be profitably imitated at the present time.

As illustrative of the "manners and customs" of the "olden time" this incident is related: A party of Indians, somewhat the worse for liquor, were collected together at a cabin with a few whites. A general frolic ensued. The Indians had been dancing and insisted that the white men should dance also, at the same time leading them "unto the floor." While there, the Indians sent to the grocery for more whisky. As soon as it was received they repaired to an unoccupied cabin that was partially inclosed, and seating themselves on the ground within, one of the number who had been detailed to "keep sober" proceeded to "pass around the drinks," and soon everything was going

"Merry as a marriage bell."

As the fun was getting "fast and furious," the sober Indian said to the whites, \* "Schomokoman better go home—wigwam. Inge get high-cok-koo-sie—no good; maybe kill Schomokoman." The whites, who had also drank some whisky, did not heed this warning until it had been repeated several times. As they went out one of them observed a bed of live coals glowing in the darkness. Finding a clap-board, he gathered up a large quantity, and going to the rear of the cabin, which was partially open, threw the coals over the crowd within. A fearful howl was the response, and the whites scattered. The next morning a negro who lived with the Indians, and was named "John," came to William Johns' house and said that the Indians were very angry at the trick played upon them, and had threatened to kill the white men. The settlers in the neighborhood were much alarmed at this threat, but Johns told the negro to say to the Indians, "Schomokoman was high-cok-koo-sie—no good," and invited them to attend a shooting-match at his house the next day. The Indians were thus led to believe that the whole affair was done in a drunken frolic, and were easily pacified. The following day several Indians repaired to Johns' house, and with William and Lemuel Johns, spent the entire day in shooting, the target being a large stump. Mrs. Johns provided an excellent dinner for them. At the close of the day, they agreed to "shoot for

\* The writer confesses his ignorance of Indian orthography.

the lead," i.e. who should have the lead that had been fired into the stump. The Indians were permitted to win, whereat they were greatly pleased and went away in excellent humor. Mr. Johns tells of the amusement afforded him in witnessing the grotesque attempts of the Indians to use forks; holding the meat in the hand, they first cut it in pieces, then carefully taking a piece in the fingers, solemnly impaled it on a fork and then carried it to the mouth.

As an illustration of the rough sports of the period, a story is told of a foot-race between Elijah Sapp and a fleet-footed Pottawatomie. Sapp was considered exceedingly swift, and the Indian had distanced all the runners of several tribes. As Sapp had beaten all the Indians in his neighborhood, they sent for this runner to come and try his speed with him. They could not agree on the distance to be run, as Sapp, conscious that the Indian could beat him in a long race, purposely opposed every suggestion. They finally agreed on a game of "base." The Pottawatomie was chosen captain of the Indians, Sapp of the whites. Sapp gave the signal and started up the road, on "trace," and the Indian after him. Seeing that the Indian was likely to catch him, Sapp took to the brush, and as the Indian was nearly naked, this dodge gave him a decided advantage. They had run several hundred yards, and the Indian was rapidly closing the gap between them, when Thomas' dog getting loose joined in the race, and catching the Indian by the leg threw him down. At this mishap everybody laughed, which so enraged the Indian that he went into a wigwam, and donning his war paint came out and challenged any one, Indian or white, to fight him to the death. As no one seemed disposed to fight on such terms, the Indian retired in disgust.

As showing the Indian mode of burying the dead, Mrs. Gray relates that she, as well as others, saw an Indian grave near her father's house. The bones were found in a log which had been split, and each portion hollowed out sufficiently to contain the body; the parts had then been replaced, and secured by heaping small logs upon it. With the remains were also found portions of a blanket and some tin utensils, among them a small pail.

A noted character in his way was Jimmie Cain. He came into the county at an early day and settled east of Milford. He was an exceedingly rough and eccentric character; a "champion fighter," and engaged in numerous quarrels, yet a man of many good qualities. He was exceedingly fond of practical jokes, and lost no opportunity to play them off, especially upon the Indians. Cain had some sheep, and also a dog that was somewhat too fond of mutton. This dog he determined to kill, and meeting a couple of Indians, proposed that one of them should



cut off the dog's tail with his tomahawk, while he (Cain) should hold the dog across a convenient log, offering at the same time to give a pipe of tobacco for doing the job. Arrangements were at once made for the "execution," and as the Indian was in the act of bringing his hatchet down on the devoted tail, Cain adroitly moved the dog so that the blow fell upon the body, severing the back-bone; of course the dog was instantly killed. The Indian was frightened, and exclaimed, "Oh! oh! me miss him!" Cain pretended to be terribly angry, and told the Indian that as he had killed his dog he would kill him. Both Indians then ran away. Cain is credited with saying, in view of the petty law-suits that sprang up after the country began to indulge in justice's courts, and something like regular preaching had become established, that "We used to live like brothers, but now that the law and gospel have come, we are more like devils."

Among the Indians was an old chief called Washeuck, who had fought under Harrison in the war of 1812. At the battle of Tippecanoe he was wounded and placed upon a horse. He always retained this horse, and still owned him when the Stanleys came. The horse was evidently very old. Mrs. Gray, a daughter of Anthony Stanley, says that she knew this chief very well. She used to visit his camp at the mouth of Barbee's Run, when the Indians were making sugar, and he always gave her at such visits a large cake of maple sugar.

Indians were last seen in this region in 1834. Robert Nilson remembers seeing a large band of several hundred, on Coon creek, as they were taking their departure that spring. These Indians were Kickapoos. The Pottawatomies had gone in 1833. These Kickapoos were an exceedingly well disposed, and even a religious tribe. They were very orderly, and every Sunday conducted a religious service in Crab Apple Grove, to which the whites were usually invited. These services always ended with a "big dinner," managed as follows: A number of large kettles, having been first suspended in a long row, were filled with the flesh of all kinds of game, and such vegetables as could be had, and corn,—not much attention was given to dressing the meat,—and the fires kindled. While the cooking progressed, the Indian preacher occupied the time in talking to the assembled company, an interpreter usually translating his discourse to the whites as he proceeded. At the conclusion of the sermon the Indians arranged themselves on each side of the row of kettles, and having first furnished each white person present with a wooden bowl or ladle, accompanied with a cordial invitation to partake, proceeded to ladle up the "savory mess" in a most primitive fashion. The whites invariably contented themselves with simply observing the gastronomic performances of their copper-colored

entertainers. After the dinner was concluded, all who wished joined in the games which followed; the squaws amusing themselves with petting the white children.

The Indians carried on a species of rude husbandry on a very limited scale, cultivating small patches of corn and peas. All manual labor was performed by the squaws, the men being entirely occupied in hunting and fishing. Some traces of the Indians still remain. One of their "plantations" may still be seen just east of the artesian well on B. F. Thomas' farm. The Indians had a large encampment or village in a bend of Sugar creek, in the north part of the township, on the east part of what is now Robert Webster's farm. The low, flat mounds upon which they erected their wigwams can still be distinctly seen. This village covered an area of several acres, and was admirably selected with a view to shelter from cold storms, and facilities for water and grazing. At one time nearly 4,000 Indians were encamped on what is now Aaron Thomas' farm. They remained here several weeks, waiting to receive the payment for their lands which had been transferred to the United States government under treaty stipulations. While here the Indians got on a "big spree," and it is said that two of them were killed. Some accounts place the killing at Lone Tree, four miles south. They were soon after removed to their far western homes.

Not pages only, but books could be filled with accounts of the privations endured by the hardy pioneers in their efforts to subdue the wilderness. The people of the present generation little realize what scenes of hardship and heroic endurance have transpired on the very ground they now tread upon; that where now are found the peaceful, smiling fields, the quiet homes, the grazing herds, the busy marts of trade, the rushing trains or the varied appliances of the mechanic arts, was heard, but a few years ago, the wild whoop of the Indians, the scream of the panther, and the howl of the wolf. Yet all this wonderful transformation is but the outgrowth of the work wrought by these brave men and women; who so resolutely held their way amid dangers, and sickness, and death. But few of those, who may well be called the advance guard of civilization, now remain; some of them lie in forgotten graves. Yet of those who still live, what emotions must fill their souls as they think of the past and behold the present! They have indeed well earned the peace and prosperity that so abundantly crown their later years.

In order to have a better understanding of this subject, let us examine more minutely the history of the "early time."

Samuel Rush, Sr., was born in Pennsylvania, May 19, 1793. He

lived there until early manhood, when he removed to Indiana, and in 1829 or 1830 came to Milford. Arriving at his destination he camped beside a large log, the only house for the family being a tent constructed of the wagon cover. He proceeded to build a cabin with floor and roof made of bark. One end of this cabin was left open, the roof projecting so as to protect the fire of logs which was kept burning in this open space. In this manner the family passed their first winter. As has been already mentioned, several families came in during the year 1830. The settlers of that date now living, well remember the terrible winter of 1830-31. Snow fell early, and before spring opened had accumulated to a great depth. The driving winds heaped the drifting snow, and along the edges of the groves drifts were formed eight or ten feet high. Large numbers of deer, caught in these drifts by the pursuing wolves, were destroyed. Cattle also suffered severely. Little provision had been made for man or beast, and in the long and fearful journeys which were necessarily undertaken to the Wabash country for food, terrible sufferings were endured. One of these expeditions, undertaken by Mr. Rush and two others, is thus described: They had three teams. At the moment of starting Mr. Rush was delayed from some cause. The others pushed on, having a large kettle and some firewood with them. This kettle was used for carrying fire, and answered the purpose of a stove. It was expected that Rush would soon overtake them. Soon after it began to snow, and by the time that Rush was on the way the snow was falling very fast. He drove on all day but did not see his companions, and as night drew near he found himself lost in the snow. Still he pushed on, hoping at least to find some shelter. In order to keep from freezing he had to keep moving, and during all that night and the next day he wandered over the trackless prairie. The storm still continued, and late in the evening he thought he saw a light, and started his team toward it, when suddenly the cattle dropped into a deep drift and could go no farther. Leaving the team he pushed on for the light, and found that it proceeded from a cabin occupied by James Crow. After warming himself and getting something to eat, he asked Crow to go with him and take some food to the cattle, which he knew were suffering for want of it, but no persuasion could induce him to peril his life in what he believed would be a vain attempt. In the morning they started out to find the team, but all trace of them had disappeared. At length a column of steam was seen rising from the snow, and on searching, the oxen were found lying comfortably underneath, but nearly famished. After feeding them he proceeded to his destination, where he found his companions. While he was wandering about during the first night



he found a man who was nearly frozen; he had great difficulty in persuading him to make any effort, and was obliged to *compel* him to exert himself in order to keep him from perishing. On another occasion, while returning from a trip after provisions, he attempted to cross Sugar creek. The water was at a very high stage, and while making the ford his wagon-bed floated away, and the cattle were also carried down stream some distance. He finally recovered the bed, but lost a considerable part of his provisions. Asa Thomas and his brother also encountered a somewhat similar experience, being obliged to return to La Fayette for food while engaged in building a cabin for his family when they should arrive next spring. On one occasion they worked half a day to get one mile.

The Stanleys and some others made trips after provisions. They had endeavored to get their supplies before winter should set in, but the severe weather came on before a sufficiency was obtained, and corn became very scarce by the first of January. They were, on one trip, blinded by a furious snow-storm, and were compelled to camp in Hickory Grove. They were obliged to feed the fire in their kettle with corn all night to keep from freezing. Many similar instances occurred; two others who were exposed to the intense cold were so frozen as to remain cripples for life.

The snow did not begin to melt until the first of March, and then, in one night, the water in Sugar creek rose over twelve feet. In many shaded places along the creek the snow did not melt until May. An old Indian, named Pesque, said that no such snow had been seen for sixty years. Previous to that time the country had abounded in buffalo and elk, but after that winter, Pesque says, they entirely disappeared. Mr. Johns and others say that, in a hickory grove about four miles above Milford, they have seen the remains of buffalo, and elk horns, that then covered the ground. But the trouble did not end with the departure of jack frost. During the following summer severe sickness prevailed. So prevalent was this sickness, chills and fever, that the most necessary work in house and field was left undone. The settlers were without medical aid, and frequently without bread. The country was very wet, and the exhalations were the fruitful cause of sickness. The country at the present time presents a widely different appearance. What was then swamp is now the best arable land. What were once denominated "swamp and overflowed lands," are now dry and readily cultivated. Teams became mired where now is firm ground. It is certainly curious to observe that as the country becomes settled and improvements are made, the wet portions become dry and tillable.

The only road in the country was what was known as the "Hub-

bard trace," between Danville and the lake shore, by way of Bunkum. Mr. Hubbard lived in Danville, and had a trading-post at Bunkum; as there was no regularly laid out road, the route he followed was named for him. This trace crossed Sugar creek at the ford, a short distance below the place now spanned by the iron bridge, and continued in a northerly direction, near Anthony Stanley's house, to Bunkum.

The first post-office in Milford was established at the house of Levi Thompson, about the year 1833, and was named Driftwood. Thompson was postmaster. His house stood near the trace, north of Stanley's house, and near the center of the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 10. The mails were usually carried on horseback; the carrier stopping at Thompson's house over night. Previous to this time, letters were brought from La Fayette or Danville by any person who might chance to come to Milford. The post-office was kept at Thompson's house till about 1835, when it was moved to Charles Axtell's house, who had bought Thompson's and Stanley's land, and built his house near the northeast corner of section 15.

Asa Thomas built the first house in the township south of Sugar creek. It is nearly certain that Samuel Rush built the first one north of the creek, and the first in the township, if we except a log house which stood on the land claimed by William Pickerel, and into which he moved. It is not known who built this house.

As time passed and settlers began to gather around themselves some of the comforts of life, they began to make trips to Chicago. The first of these was made in the fall of 1830, by Micajah Stanley. He went at the urgent request of Hubbard to bring a quantity of goods to Danville that were to arrive at Chicago by vessel. Miles went with him. William Johns also went in 1831, and took a load of such "truck" as could be gathered up; he mentions a lot of dried pumpkin which sold for \$1 per bushel. The difficulties on the road were great. Teams were obliged to cross extensive swamps, ford streams, and often sank in the mud. There was not a house between Bunkum and Chicago, and but one store in Chicago. As the country became settled and more abundant crops raised, the business of hauling goods to and from Chicago and Danville increased, and at the time railroads were talked of had assumed vast proportions.

The first mill for grinding was constructed by William Pickerel. It was certainly a unique affair, consisting of two "hard-heads" dressed in a circular form, like a grindstone, and placed in a frame in an upright position, with cranks attached. The inner surfaces were so adjusted as to nearly touch each other, and the whole was inclosed in a sort of box with a hopper placed above to receive the grain. The

machine could be worked by two or four men. Pickerel made it for his own use, but others had the benefit of it as well; while he sharpened their plows, they ground their corn. It was a decided improvement over the wooden mortar, and when one could not go thirty-five or forty miles to mill certainly a great convenience. Pickerel next built a horse-mill, sending to Cincinnati for the stones. These stones were large "nigger-heads," dressed in single pieces. This mill stood in a bend of the bank a short distance above the present one. The horse-mill was followed by a water-mill, built about 1835. The building was of logs and stood just east of the present site. The burrs in the horse-mill were transferred to the water-mill. The dam was built somewhat above the present one, and its location is indicated by three or four stakes still standing in the water. To this was added a frame saw-mill. In 1837, Pickerel sold out his entire property to Maj. John B. Strickler. The first dam failing, Mr. Strickler built another farther up the stream and cut a race to the mill. The property next passed into the hands of Jacob Wagner, who at once proceeded to build a new saw and grist-mill a few rods below the old one. One of the timbers of this mill can still be seen under water on the north side of the creek. Mr. Wagner continued in this business until his death. In consequence of legal difficulties arising, the mill remained idle for several years. In 1852 the property passed into possession of William Clement and Aaron Thomas, who rebuilt the saw-mill and constructed the present dam. These owners remained in possession until 1859, when they sold to Barnabas Brown, who afterward built the mill now standing. The present owner is John Van Meter.

In 1833 William Gray located on section 14, and built a hewed log house just east of the present limits of Milford village. The house is still standing, but has since undergone considerable alterations. The property is now owned by James Blanchfill. With the year 1834, came a numerous and valuable accession to the population of the township. In the spring of this year John Nilson and family came from Fountain county, Indiana, and bought out Robert Hill. Mr. Nilson had means with which he was able to push forward improvements vigorously. The frame house that he built is still standing on lot 5 in the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 3, and is now occupied by his grandson, John Nilson. Robert, son of John Nilson, Sr., has been for many years largely identified with the growth of the county. He was for many years county surveyor, and says that he has tramped over every forty-acre tract in this region. This year also witnessed the advent of Thomas Vennum and a large company from Washington county, Pennsylvania. They, too, were possessed of considerable means, and



emigrated with teams, driving some very fine Durham cattle with them. With Col. Vennum came his wife and three sons: George, Urias and Hiram; also Charles and John Axtell and families. This company numbered in all thirty-two persons. Hiram was the only son unmarried. Columbus Vennum, another son, came in the spring of 1835. The Vennums entered land in sections 1, 2 and 3. Charles Axtell bought out the Stanleys and Levi Thompson. The present site of the new village of Milford is on land that Charles Axtell bought. John Axtell located on or near the center of section 2. C. C. Vennum located on section 4. For two years after coming to this township, severe sickness prevented anything being done in making improvements. At present the largest two land owners in this town probably are Robert Nilson and Hiram Vennum. Among others who came during this year should be mentioned John Strain and family, who located on sections 19 and 20. Robert Williams came in 1835 and settled on section 21. Isaac Body came with his family in 1835 and settled on section 10. Mr. Body is still living at the advanced age of ninety-five years. He certainly can, in truth, be called the "oldest settler." In 1837, George Rothgeb settled in the southern part of the town on section 34. The family came from Virginia. The cabin that he occupied is still standing. Mrs. Rothgeb is still living. She distinctly remembers "Long John" Wentworth's visit at their house, although she cannot recall the "clap-board" story. The old loom made by her husband and upon which the family cloth was made is still in use. Mrs. R. wove about 300 yards of rag carpet last year. She also says that she has seen 100 wagons pass their house in one day.

In 1837 Maj. John B. Strickler moved into the township with his family. He was originally from Virginia, where he had been extensively engaged in milling. When he came the village of Milford contained one cabin. His purchase from Pickerel included the unsold village lots. At this time but little progress had been made in opening up the country. Many of the earlier settlers had gone, others had moved in. Milling facilities were limited, and flour must still be obtained from long distances. The march of improvement was very slow. Mr. Strickler built the first brick house in Milford. Mud was used as mortar. This house was the first tavern that had a sign; it was also the post-office, and Mr. Strickler was postmaster.

The first marriage ceremony performed was that of Elijah Sapp and Miss Ally Thomas, daughter of Asa Thomas. Sapp was obliged to go to Danville, a distance of thirty-five miles, for his license.

There is some uncertainty about the first birth, but probably the

first child born was Susannah, daughter of William and Judith Stanley. Mrs. Johns, however, claims this honor for her own child.

The first adult person who died was old Mrs. Singleton, who was fatally burned while alone in the house. Her body was found lying in the fire-place. Her grave was prepared by first laying poles on the bottom and sides, then putting in the body it was covered in the same manner. This constituted her coffin. Her husband died shortly after, and was buried in a coffin made of puncheons. These persons were buried on the south side of Sugar creek; scarcely a vestige now marks the place. An old burial ground, situated a short distance west of the village, is known as the "Quaker Graveyard." The earliest burial here, so far as known, was Agnes, wife of John Stanley, who died the "20th day of the 5th mo., 1834." Less than a dozen head-stones are found in this place. The Nilson graveyard, on lot 5, N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 3, contains the earliest recorded death in the township, that of Sarah, wife of Robert Hill, who died October 19, 1831. Robert Nilson's parents are also buried in this ground. The Vennum graveyard, on lot 8, N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 2, contain the graves of Col. Thomas Vennum and wife, Elizabeth. Mrs. Vennum died at the advanced age of ninety-three years. The first burial here was a son of George Vennum, aged eleven years. An old and disused burial-ground is situated near the forks of Little Mud creek. Another is known as the Rothgeb graveyard, in the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 34. The first recorded burial in Milford cemetery is that of Charlotte Wagner, who died September 1, 1838. The first burial, however, is that of a stranger, name unknown.

The first regularly laid out road was the Chicago and Vincennes, connecting these and intermediate points. The first store in the township was kept in the village by Jacob Wagner. The building was located near where James Yates' house now stands. Jesse Hobbs was the first blacksmith. His shop stood just north of where Dr. Brown's tile works now are. It is true that William Pickerel did some work in that line, but only in a small way. The first regular physicians were Dr. Wilson and Dr. Farmer. The first newspaper printed is of recent date, and will be mentioned in another place. The first religious society was the Quakers or Friends. Meetings were held during the first year of settlement, and doubtless continued until most of the members were gone. The leading religious body has been the Methodists. The first Sabbath school was established in the Thomas school-house by John Hudson, who kept a saloon near where Wingfield Cooper's house now stands. Hudson was not a religious man, but he took an interest in this matter, and bore a good name among his neighbors.

The first school taught was in a log building that stood near the

Quaker graveyard, and was called the Quaker meeting-house. This school was taught by Mrs. Judith Stanley, wife of William Stanley, in the year 1831. During this year a school-house was built in the Thomas settlement. William Thomas taught the first school in this building. A graphic description of this house and of the books first used is furnished by B. F. Thomas. "The building was of logs, 14×28 feet. The floor was of puncheons, i.e. logs split in halves, and the split surfaces smoothed with an ax. The door was made of rived boards, and secured with wooden hinges. The 'shingles' were made in the same manner. The hearth was made of clay, and extended entirely across one end of the house. A wall of clay about eight feet high formed the back of the fireplace; it had no sides or jams. The chimney was formed of sticks daubed with clay. The desks were puncheons resting on wooden pins inserted into the sides of the house. The seats were slabs supported on sticks. The windows were formed by cutting out a log on each side, the entire length of the house, and the opening thus formed closed with greased paper 'puttied' with mud." Mr. Thomas says that the first book he used was made by marking letters on a smooth "paddle." The ink was an infusion of maple bark; the pens of goose quills. The teacher was paid by subscription. Such was the "make-up" of the "shooting galleries" of those primitive days. Hiram Vennum says that his father put in the first glass window seen in the town.

The first justice of the peace in Milford was Robert Hill. The election was held in 1831 in Bunkum, and it was more than a year afterward before he received his commission. The township was at that time in Vermilion county. The first county court held in Iroquois county was at the house of John Nilson. Hugh Newell was the first clerk. The first brick were made by John Skillman in 1834. His yard was located a few yards from where John Hollander's house stands. Traces of it are still to be seen. The first shoemaker was John Reeder.

In addition to the mill already described, several other mills have been built along the banks of Sugar creek, only one of which now remains. Webster's mill has been mentioned. A steam mill was erected in 1867 near the creek, on the northeast corner of lot 5 in section 4. This mill is now removed. The mill now standing near the north line of the township, and known as the McConnell, or artesian mill, was first built by West and McMann. Samuel Rush had at one time an interest in this mill. It disappeared, and the property passed into the hands of Barnabas Brown, who built the present mill. Three large flowing artesian wells were bored in order to increase the supply of water.



In 1856 township organization was adopted. All official records previous to this date were in the county clerk's office at the county-seat, and were destroyed when the court-house was burnt. The first township election was held April 1, 1856. At this election fifty-one votes were cast. M. A. Thompson was moderator, and John Gray clerk. The first town officers elected were: for supervisor, Elihu K. Farmer; town clerk, C. Secrest; assessor, William Gray; collector, George Gray; overseer of poor, John Gray; commissioners of highways, C. C. Vennum, C. W. Dawson, Amos White.

#### INCIDENTS.

The early history of any section cannot well be written without at the same time recounting the incidents that serve to illustrate, and that in fact constitute, such history. Such incidents as have a distinctive character may well be brought under this head. The following account of his terrible experience during the "freezing time" was furnished by Mr. Hildreth himself to Robert Williams, and by him related to the writer. In February, 1836, occurred the *sudden change*. Snow had fallen the preceding day and night. The next day a drizzling rain fell so that the snow became a mass of slush. Some time in the afternoon—some accounts say in the morning—a change almost instantly occurred. One says, "the clouds boiled like a pot." The wind veered from south to northwest, the rain froze as it fell and in a few minutes the entire surface of the country was covered with ice. The streams, which in the morning were bank-full of rushing water, were quickly filled with floating ice, and the small runs and pools of water frozen solid enough to bear a man's weight. It was terribly cold. On the morning of this day, two men left Danville on horseback, intending to go to Ash Grove before night. One of these men was Thomas Frame, a young man living on Spring creek. The other was James Hildreth, who was going to Joliet; they were simply traveling acquaintances. They took dinner at Bicknell's Point and fed their horses. They then pushed on across the prairie, being compelled to swim their horses across the creeks, and their clothing damp with rain. When the cold blast struck them they were approaching Burson's (now Fountain) creek. Burson's house stood on the opposite or west side of the creek. On they went, but were soon obliged to dismount and could not proceed. They were obliged to spend the night on the prairie. They continued to move about until Frame became so benumbed that he could not keep up. Hildreth was much more warmly clad than his companion. They then resolved to kill their horses and get inside the bodies. They had but one knife.

Frame's horse was killed first, but in attempting to open the body the knife was lost and in the darkness could not be found. They succeeded, however, in opening the body so that they were able to insert their feet and legs. They remained in this position as long as possible, and were then obliged to exercise their bodies. Thus the night was passed, until about two hours before day, when Frame died. As soon as he could see, Hildreth managed to mount his horse and pushed on for Burson's Grove, a distance of nearly ten miles. On reaching the creek he succeeded in attracting Burson's attention, but he could not cross as the channel was not entirely closed. Burson was afraid to attempt getting him over, and advised him to go six miles further to another house. Hildreth did so, but found the house empty; this Burson knew, but had in this heartless manner sent him off. It was nearly night again before Hildreth got back to Burson's, and sliding off his horse resolved to cross or perish in the attempt. He succeeded, and crawling up to the house, he at length obtained what he so much needed, food and warmth. At Hildreth's urgent request, Burson aroused some people, and a general search for Frame's body was begun. Burson would not permit the body to be brought to his house, neither would he keep Hildreth. The body of Frame was taken to Mr. Williams' house, whence it was removed to his father's house for burial. Two days afterward Hildreth was removed to Williams' house, where he remained for six weeks in a perfectly helpless condition. The horse was also found and cared for. Hildreth lost all his fingers except one, and both his feet up to the instep.

In 1854 the cholera appeared in Milford, supposed to have been brought in some infected clothing. A family living in a house about one-half mile east of Aaron Thomas' place became victims of the scourge. Three persons who died there were buried. An attempt was made to remove a sick woman to Parrish Grove, but she died on the way. Two other persons died in this house, but no one could be induced to go there and bury the decaying bodies. The physician declared that the house, with the bodies, must be burned, or the whole county would be infected. This was accordingly done. About sixteen persons died of cholera.

On June 20, 1866, a tornado swept over this township in a southeasterly direction. Mr. C. W. Dawson was the principal sufferer. His farm is in sections 27 and 34. The house stands on the east side of the road, the barn on the west side, some sixty yards away. He says: "I first saw a funnel-shaped cloud coming from the west. It came near the ground in the timber on Mud creek, cutting off the tops of the trees; then rising, it struck the ground about one-fourth of a

mile west of the barn. It made a clean sweep of my farm. The barn was utterly demolished, some of the timbers being driven through the side of the house. A long building standing near was carried in fragments about 200 yards. Not a panel of fence remained on the place. The shutters were torn from the house, and my son, a married man, was carried from the yard about eighty yards, and deposited in a spring. One mule was killed outright, and five hogs, each weighing over 200 pounds, were never heard of afterward. It was a lively time for about a minute."

In June, 1848, a quarrel arose between Robert Gay and his son William about some grass. An ill feeling had existed between them for some time. The father had forbidden the son cutting any grass on some land near his house. One morning the son, regardless of this injunction, was mowing grass for his horses when the old man came out, and in the quarrel that ensued William cut a terrible gash with his scythe across his father's shoulders, near the base of the neck. The son left his father lying where he fell. The matter soon became known to a neighbor, who cared for the old man, and summoned a doctor. The wound proved to be not necessarily fatal and was in a fair way to heal, when about two weeks after he suddenly died, as was supposed, by his own hand. The son was tried and acquitted.

B. P. Williamson's house, on the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 24, was destroyed by fire, with nearly all of its contents, early on the morning of January 2, 1875. A furious snow-storm was raging at the time. The family barely escaped, saving such articles of clothing as they were able to snatch up as they left the burning building. The wind was from the northwest and intensely cold. The origin of the fire was never known.

A remarkable apple tree is still growing on the spot where it was planted forty-nine years ago. This tree was planted by William Stanley's wife on the land that Stanley sold to William Cox. It stands on section 10, about forty yards north of the southwest corner of the section. It is a seedling, and last year (1879) produced about thirty bushels of fine apples. Two feet from the ground the trunk is eight feet in circumference. The top is very symmetrical and of immense size, having a diameter or spread of about fifty-six feet. It is exceedingly thrifty, with not a dry twig among its branches. It is undoubtedly the largest apple tree in the county.

The only fire of any magnitude that has occurred in the village of Milford, was on August 10, 1876. Charles Jones' elevator, standing on the same ground now occupied by Fairman's elevator, was burned, together with several cars containing produce. Loss about \$7,000.

October 31, 1876, Charles D. Morehouse, a brakeman on the Chi-



cago & Eastern Illinois railroad, was run over by a freight train at Milford station and killed.

#### DESCRIPTION.

Milford township extends seven and a half miles north and south, and six miles east and west. The political township is identical with the congressional. It contains an area of about 28,302 acres. The township is traversed by two considerable streams—Sugar creek and Mud creek. Sugar creek enters the township from the east, near the southeast corner of section 13; thence flowing in a west-by-north course until it reaches the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 15. At this point the waters of Sugar and Mud creeks unite; the latter entering the township at the center of the west side of section 30, and pursuing a very irregular course northeast to this point of intersection. From this point the united waters flow in a north-by-east course to within a mile of the north boundary line of the town, when it bends to the northwest, leaving the township near the quarter-line of section 5. Several smaller streams flow into these. The Little Mud, in the south part of the town, is one of them. Fountain creek, coming from the southwest, joins the Mud near the center of section 30. A small creek flows across the northwest corner of the township.

The general surface is level or gently rolling. The valley or bottom lands along the courses of Mud and Sugar creeks are alluvial and of great fertility, and are at a few feet lower level than the adjoining lands. A few gullies or ravines break the uniform line of banks, but these are of extremely limited extent. Broad belts of timber, consisting of white, burr and black oak, walnut, hickory, elm, ash, sassafras, and hard and soft maple, originally existed along all the streams; sometimes spreading into wide reaches, extending into the prairie for considerable distances. The timber covered more than one-fourth of the area of the township, but at least one-half of the original quantity has been removed. This diversified arrangement of prairie and woodland presents a most pleasing landscape, and no more beautiful region exists than is found in this township. The soil in the timber portions is clay mixed with some gravel; on the prairie a black loam over gravel, clay or sand. It is exceedingly fertile, producing large crops of corn, oats and flax; and it is now abundantly shown that winter wheat can be grown with great profit.\* The coming year will doubtless mark a new era in wheat-growing. In its adaptedness to stock-raising, this township is not excelled. Immense numbers of cattle and hogs are raised,

\*The average yield per acre in this county, as shown by statistics, being twenty-six bushels.

and much attention is given to improving the breeds of stock. Not only is the country well watered by streams, but the artesian wells, which are made at small expense, furnish in nearly every locality a never-failing source of pure, cold water. These wells are invaluable to those engaged in stock-raising, besides which they facilitate the making of butter and cheese.

#### VILLAGE OF MILFORD.

This village, which is situated one mile east of the center of the township, was originally located on and covered the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 15, T. 25 N., R. 12 W. 2d principal meridian. This land was entered by William Pickerel, October 4, 1832. The village was platted by Pickerel, September 24, 1836; Jonas Smith, county surveyor, making the survey. The plat was certified October 6, and recorded October 10, 1836, and described as "situated at Wm. Pickerel's mills on Sugar creek, one of the main branches of the Iroquois river." Pickerel sold the whole tract to John B. Strickler, May 31, 1837. Railroad addition to the village of Milford was laid out and platted by John L. Donovan, August 7, 1871, and recorded the same date. The survey was made by George Dalton, a deputy of B. F. Masters, county surveyor. It is located on land formerly owned by Charles Axtell. The tract thus platted lies on both sides of the line separating sections 14 and 15, and is described by metes and bounds. The depot grounds of the Chicago & Eastern Illinois railroad are located in this addition. Donovan's addition adjoins railroad addition on the east, and is laid out on land bought of Samuel Grant. On the west of railroad addition is Dawson's addition of out-lots, surveyed by B. F. Masters. This addition extends west to the new cemetery, and lies on both sides of the road running west from the depot.

Few villages in any sections of the country, can boast of more improvements, backed up with abundant promise of greater substantial prosperity, than Milford. On the east, west and south sides are beautiful groves, while immediately to the north, and also beyond these groves, extend in all directions vast rolling prairies, well drained and yielding enormous crops of all kinds of grain, and sustaining thousands of cattle. Of this region Milford is the most available market, and the enterprise of its citizens is fast binding this extensive trade, and constantly extending every facility and offering every encouragement that superior business sagacity and a liberal outlay of money can present, to maintain and extend their commercial relations.

The village of Milford was incorporated March 3, 1874. The first officers were: H. V. Brown, president board of trustees; George S.

Blanchfill, secretary; W. T. Sheridan, treasurer; James Woodworth, police justice; Samuel Caughron, street commissioner. At the election held to vote upon the question of incorporation sixty-one votes were cast; sixty were in favor of the measure and only one negative vote.

The first elevator put up in the village was burnt as already stated. The elevator now standing on the same ground was erected by John Fairman in 1877. Mr. Fairman is a man of great business enterprise and sagacity, and foreseeing the advantages of such an investment, determined to build an elevator of sufficient capacity to accommodate the grain trade of this section. He pushed forward his undertaking amid many prophecies of failure, but the result has justified his expectations. The capacity of the building is 25,000 bushels. It is run by an engine of thirty-five horse power, with which is connected a mill for grinding corn. The elevator can receive and deliver 4,000 bushels per day. Mr. Fairman was the first grain buyer in Watseka.

The general character of the inhabitants of a city or village is often indicated by the quality and style of their buildings. This certainly is true of Milford. No village in eastern Illinois can boast of a better class of buildings, either for business or residence. Nearly all of the business houses are substantial brick buildings, well finished, and filled with large and complete stocks of goods.

During the past season many substantial and expensive buildings have been constructed. Postmaster James Woodworth and A. J. Miller have erected a two-story brick block, which will be occupied as a post-office and for dry-goods. Goldstein & Son have also put up a building of equal size with their present one, thus doubling their facilities for doing business. Fairman and McConnell have also built an extensive brick addition to their very large store. These facts are more convincing than words in estimating business prospects. As a further evidence of a sure progress, it may be stated that the amount of sales exceed \$200,000 annually.

Strickler Bros. have an extensive wagon manufactory. Their establishment also embraces a planing-mill containing three planers, a blacksmith and repair shop, a large saw-mill and a machine for cutting felloes, besides mortise and boring machines. The machinery is driven by a powerful engine. They manufactured last year over 400 wagons, and are constantly turning out an immense amount of work. John Bentson is largely engaged in manufacturing wagons and cabinet work.

The clay deposits in this region are of considerable extent and great value. The varieties usually found are blue and brick clay, and also what is called joint clay, which seems to be composed of magnesia and



lime, since the articles made from it "burn white." The clay is more readily found near the timber, and wherever the surface is broken into banks or plateaus. These sources of wealth are made available through the extensive works of Dr. Ira Brown and George Hix. The manufacture of drain-tile was commenced on Mr. Hix's land in the year 1873 by Elson Lee, but the enterprise was not successful, and the works passed into Mr. Hix's hands. Perseverance and energy, with a practical knowledge of working and burning clay have, however, triumphed over all obstacles. The demand for tile had become so great, that in 1878 Dr. Brown established his present extensive works, and still the want is not supplied. The doctor is constantly adding new and improved machinery; he has also substituted steam instead of horse power. An excellent quality of brick is also made at these works in large quantities. The amount of tile made the past season by both manufactories is about 22,552 rods, equal to a distance of over seventy miles. Several different sizes of tile are made, ranging from two and a half to eight inches. Mr. Jasper Pretzman is also largely engaged in the making of brick. The aggregate amount of brick made during the season amounts to about 700,000. With a continuation of the present general prosperity this amount will be largely exceeded in the future.

#### SOCIETIES.

Milford Lodge, No. 168, A.F. & A.M., was organized October 2, 1855; James Anderson, G.M. The charter members were: Darius Hartwell, Dr. Hartwell, Joshua Seth, Allen Latham and others. Present membership about forty-two.

Farmers Lodge, I.O.O.F., No. 253, instituted March 31, 1858, by John Hogle, deputy district G.M. The charter members and officers were: William Vennum, N.G.; Conrad Secrest, V.G.; E. K. Farmer, P.S.; J. V. Fullinwider, R.S.; James Hazlett, treasurer. This lodge continued in operation until June 13, 1863, when meetings were discontinued until June 22, 1867, when it was reorganized.

Phoenix Lodge, No. 212, of Good Templars, was organized December 7, 1877, with the following officers: William Sommers, W.C.T.; Maggie J. Woodworth, W.V.T.; S. S. Gruber, W. Chap.; Olena Gruber, W.A.S.; J. J. Stevens, W.F.S.; James A. Laird, W.T.; Johnson Hix, W.M.; Howard Hix, W.I.G.; Anna McConnell, W.R.H.S., Tiny Hastings, W.L.H.S.; N. H. Gasaway, P.W.C.T.

#### CHURCHES.

The first Methodist Episcopal class was organized in 1834, in John Nilson's house, by Rev. Elin K. Springer. His circuit comprised

Kankakee, Spring Creek, Ash Grove and Milford. Preaching services had indeed been held at irregular intervals previous to this time, but no regular service. Mr. Springer preached once in four weeks. After the first school-house was erected in the village of Milford, these services were held there so long as this building was used for school purposes; afterward the class met frequently in Isaac Bennett's tavern, and after a new school-house was built the meetings were held there until the erection of the present church building, in 1861. The present membership is 170; of the Sabbath school, 95.

Of the United Brethren no very definite information can be obtained. It has been organized for several years. They worship in the M. E. house at regular intervals. Among the early preachers were the Kenoyers—father and son. The Milford society belongs to the Milford circuit. Present number of members in circuit about seventy.

The Christian chapel was organized April, 1879, by Rev. C. B. Austin. This church has recently completed a new and tasteful house, 30×50 feet in size, and having a beautiful spire. It is centrally located, and together with the lot cost about \$1,600. The first service in the new house was held September 13, 1879. The members number about fifty.

#### SCHOOLS.

The first public institution established in Milford was a school-house. In 1836 or 1837 a log school-house was built in the village of Milford, and a number of the present inhabitants received their first induction into the mysteries of science in that building. It served the purposes of school-house, church, and public hall until about 1854, when it was sold to Mr. Samuel Bowers, who converted it into a blacksmith's shop. About the last meeting held in it was a political one during the Fremont campaign. A new and larger building was then erected some distance east of the log house. It may be of interest to know that Mr. Bowers continued to use this building as his shop until September 23, 1879, when it was torn away to make room for a new building. The new brick school-house is a very fine and commodious structure. It was erected in 1875 at a cost of \$4,000. The building is of brick, 45×55 feet, and 32 feet high. It contains four large rooms, well lighted and furnished with first-class appliances, as seats, charts, globes, etc., at an additional cost of \$1,000. The school population of this district, including all under twenty-one, is 328; the average attendance is about 200. The board, under whose supervision this building was erected, were: A. J. Endsley, William Sommers and M. A. Thompson.

The township is divided into nine school districts, eight of which

contain good school-houses. District No. 3 is not organized. The amount of township school-fund is \$6,027; the number of persons in the town under twenty-one and over six years of age is 483; amount of school-fund apportioned the last year and paid to township treasurer was \$448.43.

Milford was made a money-order office July 1, 1874. The present postmaster, James Woodworth, was commissioned October 18, 1872. The number of money-orders issued since that date up to August 20, 1879, was 3,775, of an aggregate amount of \$75,000. In the year 1872 the post-office business amounted to \$150. In 1879 it had increased to \$25,000. It was made a third-class office January 1, 1878. This remarkable result is due to the untiring efforts of Mr. Woodworth. The estimation in which his work is held by the Post-office department, is indicated by the remark of a special agent, publicly made: "It is the best conducted office on the road." And when the new office is completed there will be nothing left to be desired.

The cemetery in Milford is situated southeast of the village and just east of the Methodist church. This cemetery is located in a grove, and burials continue to be made there, as also in the Vennum graveyard. Mr. John Fairman has recently purchased ten acres just west of the village to be used as a cemetery. The location is a beautiful one: of a gently rolling surface and covered with a growth of young forest trees. The site of Anthony Stauley's log house, erected in 1830, is at the western extremity of this tract.

The Milford "Herald" was first issued July 21, 1876, by J. R. Fox, editor and proprietor. Mr. Fox continued its publication nearly two years, when the entire outfit was purchased by Edward L'Hote, of Marshall, Illinois. Mr. L'Hote is a practical printer, and under his management the circulation is rapidly increasing. The "Herald" ably represents the interests of the township and advocates the principles of the greenback party. It has over 400 subscribers.

The Milford "Genius" is a lively paper recently established, and is edited and published by J. W. Sargent. It has a good patronage both in subscription and advertisements, and bids fair to become one of the leading journals of the county.

The township is traversed by the Chicago & Eastern Illinois (formerly the Chicago, Danville & Vincennes) railroad. This road, which divides the town into nearly equal parts, was completed to Milford village July 4, 1871. Its construction has given a wonderful impetus to every department of business. It has been justly remarked that the eras or periods of development in this state are marked by



the building of the railroads across the country. This is emphatically true as regards this section.

The Milford Live Stock Importing Company was organized May 17, 1875, by twelve substantial farmers of this township, largely through the influence of B. F. Masters. The first officers were: John Webster, president; P. Crink, secretary; and Geo. Martin, treasurer. The object of the association is to improve the breed of draft horses in this township by importing blooded animals from abroad. Mr. Martin was sent to France to make purchases, and two Norman stallions and one Percheron were received July 31, 1875. The company has since obtained a fine Clydesdale horse. These were the first importations into the eastern part of the county.

Milford was not behind her sister towns in responding to the call "to arms" at the beginning of the civil war. Many of her sons made a brilliant record during these years of strife and bloodshed. Many of her homes were made desolate by the loss of loved ones who took up arms to maintain the integrity of our country. Some who returned will carry to their graves the marks of that memorable conflict. A minute history of the war will be found on another page.

At present Milford can boast of but one literary society, "The Blue Ribbon Society," which is well sustained; and it may be here remarked that not a saloon or place where liquor is sold can be found within the limits of Milford village.

The present population of Milford township is about 2,000. The population of the village is estimated at 800.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

The biography of Mr. Aaron Thomas cannot be written without writing the early history of Milford township. A large part of this early history, as presented in the "History of Iroquois County," was obtained from Mr. Thomas himself. His father, Mr. Asa Thomas, was one of the earliest, if not the earliest, settler in this township. Aaron Thomas was born in Adams county, Ohio, May 21, 1822. In 1831 he came into this township with his father's family, and has since lived on or near the place he now occupies in section 22. Aaron was married in May, 1855, to Barbara J. Pankake, whose parents were also early settlers in this township. Mr. Thomas is a republican; he is also a Master Mason, and a member of the Sons of Temperance. For a more extended notice of Mr. Thomas' life, reference is made to the early history of Milford township.

Asa Thomas, farmer, Milford, was the fourth son and seventh child of Asa Thomas, the pioneer settler in this township. He was born in

Adams county, Ohio, August 14, 1824. With his brothers, his boyhood days were passed amid the privations and alarms incident to frontier life. While his brothers became heads of families, Asa seemed to be designated as the one to remain at home and care for the aged father. Consequently he married much later in life than his brothers. He was married July 14, 1867, to Mary Jane Bragg, and continues to reside quietly among scenes made memorable by the incidents of former years. Mr. Thomas is a republican, and has always manifested a strong interest in local affairs.

Benjamin F. Thomas, farmer, Milford, son of Asa and Eleanor Thomas, was born in Welhaw Plains, Indiana, May 20, 1830. The Thomas' settlement in Milford township is fully described in the history of that town. He was one of the children carried away in the flight that occurred on the supposed advance of hostile Indians. Mr. Thomas has lived in this town since very early childhood, and from him are derived many of the early reminiscences, particularly the description of the "ancient" log school-house, given in the same history. He located on section 4, where he now resides. Mr. Thomas was married to Miss Amanda A. Hoover, March 11, 1858, who died December 5, 1874. His brother Fantleyroy was killed at the Raymond, near Vicksburg, after having served three years in the 20th Ill. Vol., without a scratch. Mr. Thomas is a republican, and also a Master Mason, having served as Master of Milford Lodge. He has always been a pronounced temperance man.

Samuel Thomas, farmer, Milford, son of Asa Thomas, the original settler in this township, was born October 30, 1826, in Adams county, Ohio. He came to Illinois with his father's family in 1831, where he has since resided. Mr. Thomas has been twice married. His first wife was Catherine Pankake, to whom he was married December 23, 1850. In November, 1858, he married Maria L. Lewis, with whom he is still living. Many of the incidents contained in the early history of Milford township are furnished by Mr. Thomas. He was an eye-witness of all that he relates, and the early history of Milford is a record of the Thomas family since 1831. Mr. Thomas is a republican.

Bethuel P. Williamson, farmer, Milford, son of Samuel and Sarah Williamson, was born in Adams county, Ohio, April 7, 1816. Mr. Williamson's grandfather manufactured gunpowder for the American army during the American revolution. For this powder he received his pay in Continental money, and in the financial collapse at the close of the war he lost the avails of his seven years' work. Mr. Williamson's father served in the war of 1812, under McArthur, and was present when Flynn and Coy were murdered by Indians. He was one of the

scouts sent after the Indians. The family removed to Fountain county, Indiana, in 1825, where they remained seven years. They then came to Iroquois county and settled in Crab Apple, where they remained seventeen years. The father died in Belmont. Mr. Williamson continued with his father until his marriage, in 1840, to Miss Margaret Williams. His second wife was Ellen Kelley. He was married to his third wife, Miss Ellen Huston, November 22, 1860. Miss Huston is the daughter of Mrs. Susannah Tullis, who was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, December 21, 1808. Mr. Williamson's house was entirely consumed by fire early on the morning of January 2, 1875, during a furious snow-storm. The family barely escaped, saving but few articles. The origin of the fire was never discovered. Mr. Williamson is one of the very early settlers of Iroquois county, and has experienced the hardships and vicissitudes of frontier life. He saw many Indians. He also witnessed the first hanging in this county, at Bunkum. Mr. Williamson, together with his father and brother, assisted in building Pickerel's horse-mill, at Milford. Two of his sons served through the civil war in the 76th Ind. Vol. These sons were engaged in the battles around Vicksburg, and at Fort Blakeley, and were nearly lost in the steamer Peabody during the passage from New Orleans to Mobile. Many of the incidents related in the history of Milford are furnished by Mr. Williamson. In politics he is a republican.

Hiram Vennum, Milford, farmer, was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, July 31, 1814. His parents were Thomas and Elizabeth Vennum. His father held the rank of colonel in the war of 1812, and was detailed to serve on a court-martial summoned to try a company of soldiers who were enlisted in his county, and left the field and returned home without being discharged. The family came to Milford in the fall of 1834, and first settled on Sugar creek, where they remained three years. Mr. Thomas Vennum then entered a large tract of land on the prairie in the north part of the township, and their future home was established on "The Mound," lot 8 in the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 2, where Hiram Vennum now resides. Mr. Vennum was married March, 1844, to Miss Nancy Wagner. Many of the details of the early history of Milford are furnished by Mr. Vennum. He has been intimately connected with the events that have transpired during his long residence here. Mr. Vennum's parents and many relatives now lie buried in the graveyard west of Mr. Vennum's house. Mr. Vennum is still in the enjoyment of good health. He says that he never used liquor or tobacco in any form, nor ever played a game of chance in his life.

Robert Nilson, Milford, farmer, son of John and Susanna Nilson, was born in Brown county, Ohio, September 20, 1817. His father served



under Gen. Harrison in the war of 1812. In 1827, they moved from Ohio to Fountain county, Indiana, where they remained five years. In the spring of 1834 they removed to Milford township, where their parents died. Mr. Nilson was married, March 12, 1839, to Miss Susan L. Wagner, and has since continued to reside in the township. Mr. Nilson was for many years county surveyor, and there is scarcely a forty-acre tract that he has not traversed. At the time of his coming here the county-seat had not been located, and the county court was, for one or two years, held at Mr. Nilson's house. At that time not a house stood on the prairie. Mr. N. has been largely identified with the growth and progress of Iroquois county, and is held in high estimation by his townsmen. He has held many important local offices, and both he and Mrs. Nilson are still in the enjoyment of health and vigor. Mr. Nilson has a vivid remembrance of the "olden time," and many of his experiences are recorded in the history of Milford township.

Mrs. Susannah Beck, Milford, was born in Mifflin county, Pennsylvania, June 2, 1821. Her father, Isaac Body, is still living and in his ninety-sixth year. The family removed to Indiana, near Covington, where they remained several years, and in 1835 came to Milford and settled near Sugar creek on section 10. Miss Body was first married to George Gray, October 21, 1841, who was born June 26, 1819, in Warren county, Ohio, and died August 8, 1861. She afterward married Jacob Beck, in August, 1863, with whom she is still living. Mrs. Beck well remembers and describes the peculiar incidents of pioneer life. She is a member of the United Brethren church. Her father has been a man of remarkable physical powers, as is shown by the great age he has already attained.

Robert L. Williams, Milford, farmer, was born in Indiana, February 19, 1828. His parents came from Ohio to Indiana, where they lived several years. They then removed to Illinois, and settled where Joliet now stands. At the commencement of the Black Hawk war, the parents returned to Indiana, settling in Warren county. About the year 1835 they again left Indiana, and located on Sugar creek in Milford township, and died there. The son, Robert, came with them, and has remained ever since in this township with the exception of seven years, from 1840 to 1847, when he lived in Vermilion county. In 1850 he married Diana Rothgeb; she died March 28, 1855. He was subsequently married to Mrs. Priscilla Sturdevant, February 13, 1865. Mr. Williams has a fine location, and is a prosperous farmer. He was a democrat until two years since, when he united with the greenback party.

Michael Harness, Milford, farmer, was born in Ross county, Ohio,

September 12, 1813. His parents were John and Prudy Harness. The family emigrated to Indiana in the fall of 1829, when soon after the father died. The mother died in 1820. Mr. Harness' father and an uncle, George Clifford, served in the war of 1812, and were among the forces surrendered by Hull at Detroit. His uncle died while in the United States service. Mr. Harness came to Illinois, and afterward returned to Warren county, Indiana, where he remained several years. Returning to Illinois, in 1836, he settled in Iroquois county, town of Milford, where he was married July 22, 1836, to Miss Sally Thomas. She died in the fall of 1857. As will be seen, Mr. Harness is one of those who participated in all the privations incident to frontier life, and whose record is a part of the early history of this county. Mr. Harness did not marry again, but himself reared the eight young children left by his wife, giving them his undivided and devoted attention. Mr. Harness is still in vigorous health, and lives with his children. He is one of the men who make history. In politics he is a stanch republican.

Asa B. Thomas, Milford, farmer and constable, was born in Milford township, September 27, 1838. His parents were William and Mary Jane Thomas. The family moved from Wehaw Plains, Indiana, to Illinois. He received the rudiments of a common-school education in a log house southwest one mile. His parents were among those who were occasionally alarmed by reports of hostile Indians, mentioned in township history of Milford. Mr. Thomas was employed on the farm until twenty-one years of age. No events of special interest had occurred in his life up to this time. On December 9, 1863, Mr. Thomas enlisted at Danville in Co. K, 76th Ill. Vol. Inf., and served in this regiment until August, 1865, when he was transferred to Co. K, 37th Ill. Vet. Vol. Inf., at Galveston, Texas. While in the 76th Mr. Thomas saw severe service, participating in the battles of Jackson and Canton, Mississippi, and of Fort Blakeley, Alabama. In July, 1864, while on the skirmish line, he was sun-struck and fell into the enemy's hands. He remained a prisoner about sixty days; was also sick three months with measles; has been twice wounded. From Fort Blakeley he was sent to Selma, thence to Mobile, thence to Galveston, where he was actively employed until honorably discharged May 15, 1866. After working as carpenter for eighteen months at Hempstead, Texas, Mr. Thomas went to Limestone county and followed the business of potter. Here he was married to Miss Mary E. Knox in November, 1866, whose parents had previously moved to Texas from Illinois. Mr. Thomas continued to work as a potter until 1871. At this time he became involved in a serious difficulty with Shirley Hen-

derson, who had attacked him. The result of this was the death of Henderson. Thomas gave himself up, but fearing mob violence subsequently made his escape to Illinois. While working here he was arrested by the sheriff of Limestone county, taken to Texas, tried, convicted and sentenced to be hung. He succeeded in obtaining a new trial; a change of venue was had, and Thomas was honorably acquitted. To show the direction of public opinion in the matter, it is only necessary to state that bail to the amount of \$50,000 was promptly offered, but refused by the court through fear. He has since resided in Milford, and served as constable in this township.

Mrs. Sarah Strain, Milford, was born in Washington county, Indiana, September 22, 1823. Her parents were Robert and Sarah Harvey. Two of her brothers served through the Mexican war, and four brothers: William, Elliott, James and Wallace served through the war of secession. William fell at Shiloh, while acting colonel of the 8th reg. Ill. Vol. Elliott was a captain in an Iowa regiment; James and Wallace in Indiana regiments. Sarah Harvey was married to David Strain, April 2, 1840, having come to Illinois in 1839. He died January 12, 1866. He was a farmer. Of two sons, one is living; the other, James H., enlisted in the 113th Ill. Inf., and died at Memphis of measles, December 24, 1862. John Strain, father of David, one of the earliest settlers of Iroquois county, served in the war of 1812, moved to Illinois in 1834, and died March 29, 1866. Mrs. Strain has six daughters living, and through life has been a devoted member of the Methodist church.

Zimri Hobson, farmer and local preacher, Milford, son of Andrew and Ruthea Hobson, was born in Highland county, Ohio, January 27, 1820. The family left Ohio in 1827, and settled in Warren county, Indiana, and afterward moved to Iowa, where the parents died. Mr. Hobson was married in Indiana, March 21, 1841, to Miss Mary A. Waymire, and settled in Iroquois county, Stockland township, until the fall of 1876, when he came to Milford. Having sold his farm he invested a large share of his means in merchandise, but lost his investment. He is domiciled in a pleasant home. Mr. H. has been a prominent and consistent Methodist for thirty-nine years. He is a Master Mason, and has filled several township offices acceptably. Mr. H. has shown in his life how a strong determination can triumph over early defects in education. He is entirely self-taught, and yet is proficient in the ordinary branches of an English education. He has led a laborious and Christian life, and is highly esteemed.

The Strickler family was among the first located in the present town of Milford. The father, John B. Strickler, was born in Page county, Vir-



ginia, in 1803, and in 1824 was married to Miss Barbara Brubaker, who survives him. While living in Virginia Mr. Strickler was extensively engaged in milling on the Shenandoah. In 1837 the family came to Milford, where he again engaged in milling. He also kept a store and erected the first brick house in town. In this house he lived many years keeping tavern, and was also postmaster. Mr. Strickler's father served through the American revolution with the rank of colonel. He himself served in the Mexican war with the rank of major. The incidents connected with the early settlement of this family in Milford will be found in the township history. The father died in March, 1867. Of the children, three sons and two daughters survive. Of the sons, Isaac N. was born in Newton, Indiana, August 10, 1846. He attended school for two years in Chicago. At the age of eighteen years he enlisted in Co. D, 150th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf. This regiment was sent to Tennessee, and served in the closing campaigns of the war. He was honorably discharged, February, 1866, at Atlanta, Georgia. He received a saber-wound on the hand which nearly disabled him. With the exception of three months, he was always ready for duty. He was married, April 22, 1874, to Miss Minnie Misch, of Milford. John M. Strickler was born at Milford, May 27, 1842, and in October 1874, was married to Miss Hannah Collins. John M. has always lived in Milford; he was brought up on the farm. He has filled several important local offices. The brothers, John M. and Isaac N., constitute the firm of Strickler Bros., and since the close of the war have been engaged in manufacturing wagons. They are now conducting an extensive and prosperous business. Isaac is a Master Mason; John is a member of the United Brethren church. Both the brothers are democrats.

Harvey Rush, farmer, Woodland, son of Samuel Rush, Jr., and Anna Rush, is a native of Milford township, and was born August 12, 1851. He attended the school in his district until he was sufficiently advanced in his studies, when he was sent to Onarga Seminary, where he remained two years. From the school he returned to the farm, and has since devoted his energies to the successful conduct of his farm. He was married, November 7, 1876, to Miss Hattie Garner. He is now living on lot 8 of the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 6, which he inherited from his father. It is known as the "Grandfather Rush" farm. That Mr. Rush has established a character for business enterprise and capacity is well shown by the fact that he was named in his grandfather's will as the executor of his estate. In politics he is a republican.

Royal Smith, physician, Milford, son of Oliver and Littlefield Smith, was born in Jefferson county, New York, July 10, 1820. His mother

was a lineal descendant of a "Pilgrim" family. His father was an eminent millwright; and was noted for the accuracy of his work. He also served as a lieutenant in the war of 1812, and as such was pensioned. The family removed in 1839 to La Grange county, Indiana, where the parents died. Dr. Smith was fitted for college at Whitesboro Academy, and graduated from Hamilton College. His medical studies were commenced at Whitesboro and finished at New York University, of which institution he is a graduate. In 1851 Dr. Smith established himself in practice at Milford, where he has since resided. In March, 1851, he was married to Miss Lucinda Woodworth. The doctor is one of the veteran practitioners of this county. At one time he was compelled to take a long vacation, on account of impaired health. He is at the present time conducting a successful drug business in connection with an extensive practice. Many interesting incidents of "early times" are related by the doctor.

Archibald C. Parkes, farmer, Milford, son of William and Sarah Parkes, was born in Preble county, Ohio, March 19, 1830. His grandfather, and also an uncle, Isaac Creason, served in the war of 1812. His brother James served through the Mexican and civil wars. The family left Ohio in 1840 and settled in Grant county, Indiana, where his father died. In 1852 Mr. Parkes and mother came to Milford township, and occupied C. Vennum's farm one year. In 1853 he entered several hundred acres of government land in section 1, and afterward bought the place where he now resides. On May 3, 1857, he was married to Miss Margaret B. Deeds, of Miami county, Indiana. Miss Deeds, daughter of William and Matilda Deeds, was born in Coshocton county, Ohio. Her parents removed to Indiana. Mr. Parkes' grandfather built the first mill in Preble county. Mr. Parks now has a fine farm of about 600 acres; 300 in pasture and 300 under cultivation. Besides this property he owns several houses and lots in Milford. Every year he feeds and ships off a large number of cattle and hogs. Yet Mr. Parkes commenced here with little more than his hands and an unbounded supply of energy. Some of the township history is furnished by Mr. Parkes.

Charles W. Davis, farmer and trader, Milford, T. 25 N., R. 12 W. 2d principal meridian, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, May 20, 1837. His parents were Jonathan and Elizabeth Davis. The family moved to Milford in 1853, where the parents died. Mr. Davis received a good common-school education. His life was passed in active business pursuits up to the year 1863, when he enlisted in Co. H, 11th Ind. Cav., at La Fayette. This regiment made an honorable record, finally culminating in the battle of Nashville. Soon after enlisting,

Mr. Davis contracted a violent rheumatic complaint, which has since permanently disabled him. He was furloughed in 1864, then returned to his regiment at Edgefield, Tennessee; afterward had a relapse, and was honorably discharged in May, 1865. He was married, December 6, 1868, to Miss Anna Curalie, and has continued to reside in Milford. He is a member of the United Brethren church; was a war democrat, and now of the greenback party.

Jasper Burt, farmer, Milford, is a native of Milford. He was born July 9, 1853. His parents, Solomon and Elizabeth Burt, lived on the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 24. They died in the fall of 1858. Mr. Burt was married, June 9, 1875, to Miss Lucinda A. Johnson, in Stockland township, where he resided two seasons. His education was obtained at the old Gothic school-house. Mr. Burt is an enterprising and industrious young man, and bids fair to make a successful career.

James T. Yates, laborer, Milford, was born in Licking county, Ohio, August 21, 1830. His parents were William and Anna Yates. They died when James was an infant, leaving him to the care of an uncle. In 1853 he came to Milford, where he engaged in milling until 1861, when he enlisted in the 42d Ill. Vol. He remained in the service until 1862, when he was discharged, having lost an eye. He reënlisted in 1864 in the 134th Ill. Vol. and mustered out the following November. He was married, December 6, 1868, to Mrs. Anna Vaining, whose husband had died in Andersonville. Mr. Yates is a member of the M. E. church; also an Odd-Fellow. In politics he is a republican.

Mrs. Lucretia Laird, Milford, was born in Tippecanoe county, Indiana, March 4, 1827. Her parents were John and Barbara Pruitt. She was married, April 4, 1847, to Elias Laird. In 1854 Mr. and Mrs. Laird left Indiana, and coming to Milford township settled on section 32, put up a shanty, fenced thirty acres of land and put in a crop of wheat. Mr. Laird turned his attention principally to raising cattle. Mr. Laird was born in Ohio, February 20, 1824, and died October 1, 1874. Mrs. Laird retains the farm, but at present is living in the village of Milford. She is a member of the United Brethren church.

Charles W. Dawson, farmer, Milford, was born in Ross county, Ohio, May 15, 1814. His parents, Leonard and Mary Jane Dawson, died in Ohio. Mr. Dawson left Ohio in 1834, and came to Warren county, Indiana, where he was married, December 18, 1834, to Miss Mary J. Hooker. He remained in Warren county about fifteen years, and then removed to Benton county. Here he remained about five years. He again removed, settling in Milford township in 1854, on



section 27, where he still lives. Two sons, Lewis and Smiley, enlisted in the late war. Smiley enlisted in 1861 in Co. B, 51st Ind. Vol.; discharged November 15, 1862. He again enlisted in the fall of 1863, and died in a rebel prison from the effects of a wound received at Guntown. Lewis enlisted in Co. D, 150th Ill. Vols., and was discharged January 16, 1866. Mr. Dawson's farm lay in the track of the tornado which passed over this county in 1866. He is a republican. Mr. Dawson is one of the best known men in this county.

Andrew J. Endsley, stock-dealer and farmer, Milford, son of Peter and Mary Endsley, was born in Wayne county, Indiana, June 22, 1824, and raised in Shelby county. His father served in the Black Hawk war; was a farmer. A. J. Endsley was married December 27, 1846, to Miss Matilda Scott. In 1854 he removed to Iroquois county, and settled four miles south of Milford, where he remained twelve years, engaged in farming and stock-raising; thence to Milford, where he now resides. Mr. Endsley is essentially a self-made man, having never attended school except six months in a log house. His brother Henry served in the Mexican war under Gen. Scott, marching to the city of Mexico, and participated in all the battles of that campaign. Mr. Endsley has filled several minor offices; is a Royal Arch Mason, being one of two charter members of the lodge in Milford now living. He has been successful in business pursuits.

Samuel Bower, blacksmith, Milford, was born in Pennsylvania, December 24, 1829; moved to Milford in 1855. Since that time he has worked steadily at his trade, not being from home more than seven months in that time. He was married, in 1859, to Mrs. Elizabeth Moffit. He is entirely self-taught. His early life was spent as canal boy, and he has passed through the usual rough and exciting scenes of canal life. Mr. Bower occupies as a smithy the first school-house built in Milford. In politics he is a republican.

Henry L. Fanning, farmer, Milford, was born in Fauquier county, Virginia, September 6, 1828. The family record will be found in the biography of John Fanning, Sr., whose brother he is. Mr. Fanning went from Ohio to California in 1852, whence he returned in 1856, and came to Milford the same year. He located on section 11, where he has since resided, wholly engaged in farming. Mr. Fanning has a very fine farm, and has been successful in business. On January 1, 1852, he was married to Miss Marcissa Johnson, whose grandfather served through the war of independence. Mr. Fanning enjoyed such educational advantages as were afforded by the schools of the early period, and has witnessed the sweeping changes that have occurred in this county. He is a Master Mason, and has held no important office. He belongs to the greenback party.

Jonas M. Rush, farmer, Woodland, son of Samuel Rush, Jr., and Anna Rush, and brother of Harvey, was born in Milford, February 11, 1856. Jonas and George Rush are twin brothers. He received a good common-school education, and was married, March 14, 1878, to Miss Josie Johnson. He is residing upon and cultivating his farm of 110 acres, which he also inherited from his father, the same being lot 8 in the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 5. Mr. Rush is giving especial attention to raising stock. He is a member of the United Brethren church; and, like all of his family, republican in politics.

James A. Laird, police justice and assistant postmaster, Milford, was born in Ohio May 30, 1830. His parents were Samuel J. and Delila Laird. The father was engaged in farming, milling and dealing in live-stock. The family moved to Indiana in 1840, where he engaged in a variety of occupations. In 1856 he removed to Illinois, having previously secured a large tract of land near Milford. He gave each of his sons, six in number, 160 acres of land, and afterward each of his three daughters 80 acres or an equivalent, reserving 240 acres for himself. He died in August, 1871; the mother in February, 1877. Three sons, Elias, John and George, died within one week, and Charles shortly after, all of the same disease. Another brother, Robert, enlisted in the 76th Ill. Vol. in 1861, and soon after died of same disease—typhoid fever. James A. removed to Milford October, 1877, where he still resides. He was married, March 4, 1852, to Miss Permelia Long. His life has been an uneventful one.

Milton L. Biggs, keeper of livery and feed stable, Milton, son of Matthew and Mary Biggs, was born November 22, 1841, in Dearborn county, Indiana. His father was a farmer, and is supposed to have perished in the explosion of a steamboat on which he was. Mr. Biggs came to Milford in 1857 and remained until 1868, engaged in farming. He then returned to Indiana, and was married, October 23, 1868, to Adeline Mote. He again came to Milford in January, 1879, and bought the livery stock where he now is. Mr. Biggs is a notable example of what energy will accomplish under very adverse circumstances. When seventeen years of age he was severely injured and made a cripple for life, having his breast crushed under the hoof of a horse from which he had fallen. He is a democrat.

Edward Reed, school teacher, Milford, son of Thomas and Elmyra Reed, was born in Newark, Ohio, August 18, 1848; obtained his education in the common schools of his native state; came to Milford, Illinois, alone, in August, 1857, and engaged in mercantile pursuits for about three years. He was married, November 10, 1870, to Miss Sarah E. Lemley. Mr. Reed was in active business until 1870, when he com-

menced teaching in this and Stockland townships, and has continued to teach, with a short interruption, to the present time. He has held the offices of assessor and assistant postmaster, and is now village clerk. Mr. Reed offered himself as a soldier, but the military authorities refused him, in consequence of his having lost three fingers from his left hand when a child. Mr. Reed is a member of the Methodist church and an Odd-Fellow, and belongs to the greenback party.

Samuel Euans, farmer, Milford, was born in Logan county, Ohio, April 15, 1807. His father, Joseph Euans, served in the war of 1812, and was under Harrison at Fort Meigs at the time of Hull's surrender. He held a captain's commission and raised a company for the war. Mr. Euans says, that during his father's absence his mother frequently went out and chopped wood in the deep snow to keep her children warm; and that for six months at a time the family did not see a morsel of bread; they lived on meat and corn pounded in a hollow block. Mr. Euans' grandfather served seven years under the immediate command of Gen. Washington. When a boy he has often visited the Indians and witnessed their sports. His parents lived and died in Ohio. In 1830 he was married to Miss Jemima Buckley. His son William served in an Illinois volunteer regiment fifteen months. The family came to Iroquois county in 1858, and to Milford in 1877, where Mr. Euans and wife have since resided.

Thomas Loveless, stock-dealer, Milford, was born in Ross county, Ohio, May 4, 1839. His parents were William and Mary Loveless. The family removed from Ohio in 1841, and came to Tippecanoe county, Indiana. His father was a farmer, and continued to reside in Indiana until his death. His mother also died there. Mr. Loveless continued to reside with his parents until the year 1858. He was married, July 27, 1858, to Miss Harriet Funk, and in 1859 removed to Milford, and settled, where he now resides, on section 21. Mr. Loveless' grandfather served in the war of 1812.

William Misch, grocer, Milford, was born in Germany, September 20, 1852. His parents are August and Rachel Misch. His father was a soldier in the Prussian army. The family came to the United States in 1861, and located in Milford. Mr. Misch obtained his education in the Milford public school. He afterward worked on a farm four years; then spent eleven years as a clerk. In April, 1879, he purchased the stock of groceries of Mr. John Holmes, and is now successfully conducting the business on an extensive scale. Mr. Misch is a member of the Odd-Fellow and Good Templar lodges of Milford.

Mrs. Phœbe Laird, farmer, Milford, daughter of John and Catherine Burget, and widow of John Laird, was born in Tippecanoe county,



Indiana, November 28, 1833. She was married to John Laird, March 27, 1851. In the spring of 1858 they removed to Iroquois county, and settled in the town of Milford, section 29. One hundred and sixty acres of this tract was given to Mr. Laird by his father, who had entered the land. Mr. Laird was one of three brothers, Elias, John and George, all of whom died within the same week of typhoid fever; John dying September 30, 1874. Mrs. Laird continues to reside at the homestead where her husband died.

George W. Haines, farmer, Milford, son of Havey H. and Jane Haines, was born in Stockland, Illinois, January 27, 1861. His mother was Jane Freeman. The father died in 1867, the mother in 1870. Mr. Haines is unmarried, and is living with his brother-in-law, James W. Haxton. Mr. Haxton was born in Connecticut, February 15, 1836, which state he left in 1855. In 1861 Mr. Haxton came to Milford township, and October 21, 1869, was married to Miss Mary Haines. He enlisted, July 28, 1862, in Co. E, 76th Ill. Vol. Inf., and was discharged as sergeant August 6, 1865. He was wounded at Jackson, Mississippi, in 1864; served in all the battles in which his regiment was engaged up to the time of being wounded. Mr. Haxton's paternal grandfather served through the American revolution. He was educated in Connecticut, and is a Master Mason; in politics a republican.

John Fanning, Jr., farmer and stock-dealer, Woodland, is the son of John Fanning, Sr., and Mary Fanning. He was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, September 18, 1850. He came to the town of Milford with his parents, but has been acting on his own account since he was sixteen years of age. At this early age he commenced dealing in cattle for himself, and has shown great aptitude for business, and has been generally successful in his operations. His education was obtained at the Milford public school, than which there is none better in this section of the state. He was married, December 28, 1876, to Miss Margaret A. Montgomery, and has a beautiful home on lot 6 in the northeast corner of section 4. Like his father, Mr. Fanning is a young man of great energy of character, and a successful business man. He is an Odd-Fellow and a republican.

John D. Webster, farmer, Milford, son of Robert and Mary Jane Webster, was born November 24, 1841, in Armagh county, Ireland. The family emigrated to the United States in 1842, landing at Quebec, and settling in Fairfield county, Ohio, where they remained about six years. They then removed to Montgomery county, Indiana, and in 1861 came to Milford, and settled upon the land now occupied by Robert Webster. Mr. Webster was married, April 5, 1876, to Miss Sarah E. Williamson. Mr. Webster had decided to prepare himself for

a professional career, and to this end was studying and teaching; but while diligently working to accomplish this cherished purpose, his brother, who was living with the parents, was drowned in Sugar creek. This sad event changed the entire current of his life. He was now the only son, and he yielded to the desire of his parents, and devoted himself to the farm. Mr. Webster, together with his father, has taken a prominent part in the movement for improving the breed of horses in this county, and is at present president of the Milford Live Stock Importing Co.

Mrs. Mary Hoover, Milford, daughter of William and Elizabeth Lovelace, was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, September 25, 1816. Mrs. Hoover comes of a patriotic family. Her father served in the war of 1812, and was surrendered at Detroit. Her grandparents were among the pioneers in Kentucky, and endured for a time a terrible captivity among the Indians. In 1836 she married Josiah B. Hoover, whose father was also surrendered at Detroit. J. B. Hoover was born in Ross county, Ohio, February 25, 1815. The family removed to Tippecanoe county, Indiana, in 1854, where they remained until 1861, when the parents with several of the children came to Milford to care for the family of a son, who had already enlisted. Mrs. Hoover is the mother of ten sons and six daughters. The husband, six sons and one son-in-law enlisted and served through the civil war; the father, J. B. Hoover, in the 116th Ind. Vol. Of the sons, William H., Harvey, Ethan, and Michael served in the 51st Ill. Vol. Harvey and Michael were afterward transferred to the marine service. George enlisted in Co. B, 17th Ind. Vol. Inf. John E. served in the 26th Ind. Vol. Michael was engaged in nearly all the severe battles in which his regiment participated. At Corinth, with ten others, he was captured and sent to Libby prison, where he remained four months, and was then exchanged. Ethan was severely wounded in the leg at Chickamauga, where he was made a prisoner. He was in Richmond prison seven months and ten days. He still suffers from the effects of that wound. It would be impossible to write the entire war record of this remarkable family. Few families have made a better record, or have contributed more to secure the results of the war. The father has filled the office of justice of the peace for seven years. Mrs. Hoover is still in vigorous health, though prematurely gray in consequence of the great trials of her life. She bravely sent her husband and sons to the war, and during their absence provided and cared for a numerous family of children and grandchildren. Not one of the family has ever received a dollar of pension money. The sons are now working at their various trades.

John Fanning, Sr., stock-dealer, Milford, was born in Fauquier

county, Virginia, April 13, 1823. His parents were Joseph and Lucy Fanning. His father served in the war of 1812, was in active service, and died in Fairfield county, Ohio. Mr. Fanning came to Iowa in 1854, and after several changes of residence settled in Milford in 1861. He was married to Miss Mary Spitler in 1844, and after her death to Miss Charlotte Clark, November 28, 1876. He has led an active life, and been successful in business. He is a republican; a member of the Blue Lodge, and especially prides himself on the fact that he has been pathmaster. Everybody knows "Uncle John."

Wingfield Cooper, retired farmer, Milford, was born in county Wicklow, Ireland, April 5, 1812. His parents belonged to that highly respectable class known as "gentlemen farmers." Mr. Cooper was educated at the school in his native place and at a boarding-school of considerable reputation at that time. After leaving school, his father's health being very infirm, young Cooper was entrusted with the entire control of his father's extensive estate. His father died in 1833. In the division of this estate the homestead, with considerable property, fell to him. In 1835 he married Miss Susanna Coates, and continued his farm business, until her failing health necessitated a permanent change. Under medical advice, in July, 1851, the family came to the United States; destination, La Fayette, Indiana. Here they remained some time, farming rented land. Finally they removed to Milford in 1862, bought a farm of 80 acres, and lived here until his wife's death in 1869, when Mr. C. retired, leaving his children on the farm, and finally married Mrs. Eliza Thomas, with whom he is quietly living in Milford.

Gerrit Hix, farmer, Milford, son of William and Martha Hix, was born in Kentucky, May 1, 1821. The family removed to Parke county, Indiana, in 1839, where they lived about fifteen years, engaged in farming. The parents then came to Iroquois county, Illinois, where they died. Mr. Hix was married, June 2, 1841, to Miss Elizabeth Sellers. During his residence in Indiana Mr. Hix conducted a cabinet shop. In 1862 he removed to Milford township, where he was engaged in farming, and at one time bought and run a saw-mill. This mill was on land now owned by George Hix. Mr. Hix is proud of the fact that during all his wedded life he never had a family quarrel, nor ever struck a child, although they have raised a family of ten children. Mr. Hix has experienced all the hardships and changes incident to pioneer life, and has closely followed his own convictions in matters of politics and religion. His wife is a member of the M. E. church.

James A. McConnell, dealer in general merchandise, Milford, was born in Highland county, Ohio, March 9, 1824. His father, John



McConnell, served through the war of 1812, with the rank of colonel (as his son thinks), under Gen. Harrison. He saw active service, and was in the defense of Fort Meigs. Col. McConnell also served in the Black Hawk war. He also drilled and prepared the first company that went from his county to the late war. Col. McConnell's brother also served in the war of 1812, and was made a prisoner at Hull's surrender of Detroit. This brother was present when notice of the surrender was given to Gens. Cass and McArthur, and he relates that these officers broke their swords rather than give them up. Mr. James McConnell has in his possession a remarkable sword which his father wore, and which his father gave to him. It is of English manufacture, bears the royal coat of arms and the monogram of Richard III. Mr. McConnell's family left Ohio, in 1828, for Covington, Kentucky, where they resided several years; from whence, after several changes, they came to Benton county, Indiana, where the father died in 1875. The mother's name was Elizabeth. In March, 1848, Mr. James McConnell was married to Miss Sarah McIlvain, who died in 1861. He afterward married Miss Anna Brown in 1863. He came to Milford in February, 1862, and established a general store. The business has steadily increased, until the firm of Fairman & McConnell occupy one of the finest blocks in Iroquois county. Mr. McConnell built a grist-mill on section 5, which is still in operation. It is called the artesian mill, from the fact that three artesian wells supply a large portion of the motive power. Mr. McConnell has been always a democrat. He is a Master Mason, an Odd-Fellow and a member of the Christian church. An incident at Col. McConnell's death is worthy of mention. Ten children, the youngest of whom was forty years old, surrounded his death-bed. Mr. James McConnell is one of the prominent men of Iroquois county.

George Hix, drain-tile manufacturer, Milford, was born in Kentucky, November 25, 1825. His parents were William and Martha Hix. His grandfather's family, with one exception, were killed by Indians in the early days of Kentucky's history. Mr. Hix went to Pike county, Indiana, in 1843, where he learned the potter's trade. Becoming of age he bought and run a saw-mill until his removal to Iroquois county in 1863. Here he built a saw-mill, which he run for eight years. He then engaged in farming. The first tile-works were erected on Mr. Hix's land. These works are now actively operated by Mr. Hix's sons. November 1, 1849, he was married to Miss Elizabeth Cix. Mr. Hix has led an active life, and has always taken a lively interest in local affairs, filling various township offices usefully. For thirty-five years he has been identified with the temperance cause.

In politics he was formerly a democrat, but during later years his convictions have caused him to act with the greenback party. Mr. Hix is still in vigorous health. His business enterprises have been generally successful.

James Mayfield, farmer, Milford, was born October 10, 1828, near Nashville, Tennessee. His parents, James and Maria, lived and died in Tennessee. Mr. Mayfield's first experience in life was as a cabin-boy, and afterward first cook on steamboats running on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. He continued his river life for three years, when he came to Cincinnati, where he remained about six months. He then went to Union county, Indiana, to work on a farm. He remained in this county for many years, working by the month as a farm hand. He was married, September 1, 1858, to Miss Elizabeth Connell, who was born March 29, 1838. In October, 1863, he came to Milford and bought the east half of lot 5, in the northeast quarter of section 2. He soon after sold out, and bought a farm in Belmont. He again sold out and purchased lot 7, northeast quarter section 4, in Milford township. Again he sold, and removed to Milford village, where he resided several years, and served five years as police and township constable. March 20, 1879, he exchanged his village property for the farm on which he now resides. His children are William T., Sidney A., John A., George T., Daniel J., Sarah E. and James L. Mr. Mayfield is a very energetic man, a Master Mason, and in politics a republican.

Jasper Prutsman, brickmaker, Milford, son of David and Maxy M. Prutsman, was born in Fountain county, Indiana, February 12, 1836. His father was from Virginia, his mother from Kentucky. His father served through the war of 1812, and was engaged in building block-houses at Detroit. He died in 1837; was by trade a wagon-maker. In 1852 Jasper, with his mother and sister, came to Prairie Green township, where he entered 80 acres of land. Here he engaged in farming; besides, in company with his brother, he purchased a breaking team, and for three years broke land for others. September 7, 1856, Mr. Prutsman was married to Lucinda Crow, daughter of David and Mary Crow, who was born August 1, 1833. In 1864 he removed to Milford township and became a timber-dealer. For the past five years he has been engaged in making brick, three quarters of a mile west of Milford. They have had eight children: Alfred, born February 12, 1858; Mary M., born April 29, 1860; Smilinda E., born February 9, 1862; Orea, born March 8, 1864; Martha E., born April 26, 1865; Frank, born July 6, 1867; Arata, born April 11, 1870, and an infant. Smilinda died October 3, 1875. In politics Mr. Prutsman is a greenbacker. He is one of the substantial men of this township. The business is prosperous.

Dr. Ira Brown, physician, Milford, was born near Brockville, Canada West, May 6, 1832. His parents, James and Lydia Brown, removed from Hartford county, Connecticut, to Canada in 1794. The British authorities endeavored to compel his father to serve against the United States in the war of 1812, but he escaped into Massachusetts, where he remained during the war. He then returned to Canada, and died there. He never took the oath of allegiance to the British government. Dr. Brown's grandfather served seven years in the war of the revolution, and afterward assisted in making the government survey of Ohio. Ira Brown came to Jefferson county, New York, in 1850. He had already acquired the miller's art, and for eighteen months attended school, working in a mill nights and mornings, in this manner obtaining means to pay his expenses. He afterward was engaged as clerk in a dry-goods house for some time. In the spring of 1854 he came to Brantford, Canada, where he commenced the study of medicine. In 1856 he went to Ann Arbor, Michigan, and there prosecuted his studies, graduating March, 1858. He then came west, and after traveling through Missouri, finally located in Boone county, Illinois, and began the practice of medicine. He continued in practice here until January 1, 1862, when he entered the 65th reg. Ill. Vol. as assistant surgeon; he was appointed surgeon October, 1864. This regiment was captured at Harper's Ferry at Mile's surrender. Dr. Brown was left at Martinsburg, Virginia, in charge of sick soldiers twenty-one days, and afterward allowed to depart without parole. He next found himself assigned to duty at Fort McHenry, and in April, 1863, appointed post-surgeon at Camp Douglass. In December, 1863, he was ordered to join his regiment near Knoxville, Tennessee, and remained with it through the Atlanta campaign; was in the battles of Columbia, Franklin and Nashville, and finally mustered out with the regiment May, 1865. Dr. Brown then came to Milford, and soon found himself established in an extensive practice. He was married to Mrs. Nellie Best, October 30, 1873. Dr. Brown has always been actively identified in developing and promoting the business interests of this section. In 1878, he established his extensive tile and brick yard, of which a more extended notice occurs in the history of Milford.

Elam H. Patterson, school teacher, Milford, son of Amos and Esther Patterson, was born in Grant county, Indiana, October 28, 1857. His father combined the business of merchant and farmer. He enlisted in Co. H, 118th Ind. Vol. Inf., August 12, 1863. This regiment did good service at Blue Springs, Clinch River, and at Taswell. At one time their daily rations per man for nine days were one half



ear of corn and a cubic inch of meat. He was discharged March 3, 1864. One of his brothers was in thirty-five battles, and came out without a serious wound. Elam H. Patterson was educated at the Sheldon High School and at Onarga Institute. He has been engaged in teaching since sixteen years of age. He was for one year principal of Sheldon High School.

James Woodworth, postmaster, Milford, son of John and Phœbe Woodworth, was born in Ohio, September 12, 1844. The mother died in 1861. In 1844 the family removed to La Grange county, Indiana, afterward going to Noble county, where the father still resides. James attended school, and two years of the time were passed at Kalamazoo, Michigan. In 1861 he enlisted in the 4th Mich. Cav., but being under age was rejected. In October, 1861, he was enrolled in the 1st Michigan Engineers and Mechanics, where he remained three years. While in this regiment he participated in the battle of Lavergne, Tennessee. This regiment consisted of 391 officers and men, commanded by Col. Inness. This regiment was posted at Lavergne, midway between Nashville and Murfreesboro, to protect communications. It was here their position was attacked by Wheeler's rebel cavalry, consisting of 3,000 men and two pieces of artillery. After successfully resisting seven distinct charges of the enemy, the rebels finally withdrew. The regiment received the highest praise from Gen. Rosencrans for gallant conduct on this occasion. After his discharge Mr. Woodworth engaged as engineer to Platt J. Wise, of Fort Wayne, where he continued two years, at the same time continuing his studies. The next two years were spent as clerk in two grocery houses in the same city. He then came to Ash Grove, Illinois, where he was engaged in teaching school during the winters of 1869 and 1870. On May 17, 1870, Mr. Woodworth commenced business in old Milford, selling goods on his own account. While here the Chicago, Danville & Vincennes (now known as the Chicago & Eastern Illinois) railroad was in course of construction, and was completed to Milford, June 24, 1871. On May 10, 1872, Mr. Woodworth opened the first stock of goods in the new town, and continued here until 1877. Mr. Woodworth has held for several years the office of police magistrate and notary public, and is at present postmaster, which office he has held since October, 1872. At that time the business of the office amounted to but \$150 per year. It now amounts to about \$25,000 per year. Mr. Woodworth was married, December 11, 1871, to Miss Martha J. Lane. He is a Master Mason and a Good Templar. Although still a young man, Mr. Woodworth's life is an example of what can be accomplished by energy and determination.

William T. Sheridan, general merchandise, Milford, was born in

New London, Connecticut, June 25, 1842. He was educated in the public schools of his native state. In 1861 Mr. Sheridan enlisted in the 1st reg. Conn. Heavy Artillery. He was soon detailed as orderly on Gen. R. O. Tyler's staff, where he remained for three years, and during this time was frequently sent with important orders, requiring skill and courage to execute, as well as incurring great danger. Mr. Sheridan participated in the battles of Second Bull Run, and on the Chickahominy and James rivers. He was also at Antietam and Gettysburg, and through the Wilderness. He also served as general superintendent of land transportation. He was mustered out in 1864, and for two years after was government inspector and auctioneer. During this time a vast amount of government property passed through his hands, and he has many testimonials of his ability and fidelity in the discharge of duty. During the battle of Gettysburg, he succeeded in securing Gen. Tyler's saddle and accouterments, after his horse had fallen, carrying them a long distance under the enemy's heavy fire; for his daring he was highly complimented by Gen. Tyler. In 1866 Mr. Sheridan came to Rockford, Illinois, where he engaged in the auction and commission business, afterward removing to Milford in 1871, where he continues to reside. In October, 1867, Mr. Sheridan was married to Miss Minnie Mosley, who died in March, 1873. In November, 1874, he married Miss Carrie Mason. He is a Master Mason; in politics a republican.

Philip Holloway, farmer, Milford, was born in Union county, Ohio, January 14, 1825. His parents were Elijah and Elizabeth Holloway. The father was a wheelwright, and worked at his trade during his life. The family moved to Tippecanoe county, Indiana, in 1839. The son worked with the father. April 5, 1849, he was married to Miss Sally Dawson, and in 1854, with her, removed to Iroquois county, and settled in the town of Stockland, where, with nothing but his brain and muscle, he commenced to open a farm. In this calling he continued to prosper, and cultivated his farm until the year 1862, when he enlisted in Co. E, 76th Ill. Vol. for three years. At the battle of Jackson, Mississippi, July 7, 1864, he was severely wounded, being shot through the leg. He remained in hospital for fifty-two days, when he was sent home on a furlough. Here he remained until his regiment returned to Chicago, when he was discharged. Mr. Holloway has witnessed the great changes which have occurred within the last twenty-five years. He continued on his farm until 1873, when he came to Milford. His wife died July 5, 1874. He is now in receipt of a pension. His father died in 1862; his mother in 1827. August 20, 1876, he was married to Miss Levina Hix. He is a republican.

George H. Barber, farmer, Milford, son of David C. and Louisa S. Barber, was born in Charlemont, Massachusetts, February 21, 1851. His father was born in Massachusetts, September, 1820. His mother was from Vermont, born August 28, 1820. In 1856 the family removed to La Fayette, Indiana, and carried on a farm for four years. In 1860 they came to Iroquois county and settled in Beaver township. In 1875 they again removed, going to Missouri, where the parents still reside. Here, February 22, 1872, George H. was married to Miss Margaret Logan. He then returned to Iroquois county in 1874, and is now conducting the Strain farm on section 19, Milford township. Mr. Barber has received a good common-school education, and for five years was clerk in a general store in Missouri. Two of his brothers served three years during the civil war. Charles was in the 63d Ind. Vol., and D. C. was in the 76th Ill. Vol. Mr. Barber is an energetic and thriving farmer. He has kept out of debt, and therefore never has had occasion to complain of hard times.

James P. Button, dealer in general merchandise, Milford, the son of James P. and Sarah E. Button, was born in Fountain county, Indiana, December 9, 1849. The family moved to Ford county, Illinois, 1853. The father was a farmer, and has filled many offices. He was treasurer of Ford county two years. A township in that county bears his name. He died March 14, 1863. The younger James P. came to Milford in 1875, and entered the mercantile business. He was married to Miss Sarah E. Lane, May 18, 1875. His brother, W. J. Button, became a partner in the business March 1, 1879. Their business is rapidly increasing.

Andrew J. Shorey, grocer, Milford, was born in Penobscot county, Maine, September 15, 1829, and received a common-school education. His parents were Nathaniel and Elizabeth Shorey. Mr. Shorey was engaged in business at an early age, being in the lumber trade until 1853, when he went to California, where he remained five years; he afterward extensively engaged in manufacturing lumber in Wisconsin, which he sent down the Mississippi. He removed to Milford in 1875, and started again in the lumber trade; sold out, and established his present successful business. Mr. Shorey was married October, 1862, to Miss Susan Woodworth. He is a republican in politics, and was president of the town council one year.

John F. Fairman, merchant and grain-dealer, Milford, the son of Henry and Mary Fairman, was born in Tioga county, Pennsylvania, April 3, 1829. When he was three years of age his parents removed to La Fayette, Indiana, and in 1845 came to Illinois, and settled in Will (now Kankakee) county, where Kankakee city now stands. The coun-



try was wild and covered with timber. The family sought shelter in an old log cabin, which was repaired and made to answer the purpose of a home. Young Fairman's health was frail, yet he assisted somewhat in this labor. Mr. Fairman describes, in a graphic manner, his exultation on killing his first deer. His health becoming established, he struck out for himself, and proceeding to the Wabash, procured a job of making rails at 50 cents per hundred. He afterward worked on a farm at \$8 per month. Returning to his parents, he still continued at farming. When about eighteen years of age he spent the winter in chopping, and occasionally hunting and trapping, and succeeded in procuring a large quantity of venison and peltries, which he hauled to Chicago and sold at good profit. Having accumulated considerable money, in 1859 Mr. Fairman came to Watseka and erected the first elevator and business house ever built in that town. He continued in business there for five years, buying and shipping grain and selling goods and agricultural implements. His business was very successful. In 1865 he went to Logansport, and, with a partner, bought 400 acres of timber. They erected a saw-mill and commenced selling lumber. These operations were suddenly checked by the loss of the mill and 100,000 feet of walnut lumber by fire. The energy of the man is displayed in the fact that in ten days the mill was entirely restored and in full operation. Mr. Fairman retired from this business with a handsome addition to his capital. He has always been a very active man, finding his highest pleasure in the activities of business. He has also traveled extensively, and has been keenly observant of men and things. In 1876 Mr. Fairman entered into partnership with James A. McConnell, in a general merchandise business and dealing in grain, at Milford. They are doing an extensive business. Mr. Fairman was married, in 1852, to Miss Mary E. Parks. He is a republican, and a strong temperance man.

Andrew J. Miller, dealer in general merchandise, Milford, was born in Germany, October 23, 1845. He came with his parents to Champaign county, Ohio, in 1854, and worked on the farm until July 4, 1862, when he enlisted in the 45th Ohio Vol. Inf. At this time he was but sixteen years of age. He served three years and participated in all the battles the regiment was engaged in. Some of them are as follows: the Morgan raid through Ohio and Indiana; siege of Knoxville; battles of Resaca and Kenesaw Mountain; and through the Atlanta campaign, and battle of Frankford, 1864. At the close of the war Mr. Miller came to Ford county, Illinois, where he was extensively engaged in farming, and cultivated a section of land near Paxton, Illinois. January 28, 1868, Mr. Miller was married to Mary J. Bently; they have four children now living: two boys, Louis and Charlie,

and two girls, Minnie and Nora. The eldest child is ten, and the youngest three years old. During the eleven years Mr. Miller was engaged in farming, he accumulated a large amount of property. He raised large numbers of cattle and hogs. His farming operations were very successful. In 1876 he sold his farm and stock, and engaged in mercantile pursuits at Miller's Station, on the Lafayette, Bloomington & Muncie railroad. This station was named after his brother. His store, with all its contents, was destroyed by fire August 1, 1876. At the time of the fire his family were living over the store. A hired boy was burned to death, and one of his children was so badly burned that it died next day. The remainder of the family barely escaped. Mr. Miller then removed to Donovan, Illinois, where, in the fall of 1876, he again embarked in merchandising and opened with a large stock of goods. But the fire-fiend seemed to follow him. March 7, 1877, five buildings with their contents were burned—Mr. Miller's among them. Not discouraged by these severe losses, he, in September, 1878, removed to Milford, Illinois, and bought Jacob Wittenmeyer's stock of goods, together with the brick building, and again commenced business. Mr. Miller is an active, enterprising business man. In August, 1879, in connection with James Woodworth, he erected the large double brick block, known as "Woodworth and Miller's New Block." Mr. Miller is carrying on a large business at the present time.

John Bentson, wagon and cabinet-maker, Milford, was born in Sweden, September 26, 1838, where his parents still reside. On his arrival in this country he first came to St. Louis, Missouri, and finally established himself in Chicago, where he lived seven years. He was married, February 20, 1875, to Miss Matilda Johnson. Mr. Bentson has experienced many changes in life. The parents met a great grief in the loss of a son, Johnnie T., who died June 27, 1877. They have one son living. Mr. Bentson removed to Milford in the fall of 1878, and is now established in a prosperous business.

Edward L'Hote, editor of "Milford Herald," Milford, was born on the island of Gaudaloupe, March 3, 1819, of French parentage. Previous to leaving France his father served through several of Napoleon's campaigns, terminating his military career at the battle of Waterloo as a soldier of the "Old Guard" under Marshal Ney. In recognition of honorable service he was decorated with the cross of the Legion of Honor. Parents and son left Gaudaloupe in 1824, came to the United States in 1826, and settled in New Orleans in 1827. There his parents died. The son attended school until 1839, when he entered a printing office, and followed this business as apprentice and journeyman till 1851, having in the mean time removed to Marshall, Clark county, Illinois,

in 1849. He here engaged in mercantile pursuits for a short time. He afterward published the "Hornet," a campaign paper, and on Mr. Lincoln's accession to the presidency was appointed postmaster. Mr. L'Hote also held the position of deputy circuit clerk for three years, and is a notary public. In June, 1878, Mr. L'Hote removed to Milford, and purchased the "Herald" of J. R. Fox, Esq., which paper he has since continued to publish, advocating the principles of the green-back party. The only break in his life as a printer occurred in 1846, when he enlisted in the six-months Louisiana troops, called out by Gen. Taylor, served out his time, and was honorably discharged. He was married November 29, 1849, to Miss Charlotte Whaley. He is a Mark Master Mason and Good Templar.

Alba M. and Edgar A. Jones, dealers in hardware, stoves, lumber and coal, Milford, are twin sons of John and Anna Jones. They were born in Stockland, Iroquois county, Illinois, in 1857. The brothers have never separated from each other, always attending the same schools, and joining in the same pastimes. They were educated in the schools of their native town and at Valparaiso, Indiana. Together they commenced business March 1, 1879. They have quite recently established a lumber and coal-yard, and already have a profitable trade. Under the firm name of Jones Brothers they are already widely and favorably known. They are rapidly taking the lead in their special lines of business.

Charlie E. Smith, saddles and harness, Milford, was born in Warren county, Ohio, May 6, 1855. His parents are Thomas and Hope Smith. His grandfather served through the war of 1812. In 1859 the family moved to Thornton, Indiana, and thence to Vermilion county, Illinois, in 1877, where the parents still reside. Mr. Smith came to Milford in July, 1879, where he has succeeded in establishing himself in a thriving business. He was married, February 2, 1879, to Miss Rosa Haas. He is a republican, an Odd-Fellow, and a member of the Methodist church.

Daniel G. Lee, dealer in general merchandise, Milford, the son of Benjamin G. and Polly M. Lee, was born in Griffin's Corners, New York, October 2, 1854. The father dealt in grain and merchandise. In 1857 the family came to Minnesota and conducted a farm. In 1862 Benjamin G. Lee was appointed a provost-marshal, and materially assisted in suppressing the Indian outbreak in that state. The town of Hutchinson, where the family lived, was once attacked by 200 Indians. Many settlers were killed before reaching the stockade, but Mr. Lee's family escaped. Their house, barns, crops, etc., were entirely destroyed. The family came to Kankakee in 1866, where they still



reside. Daniel G. Lee came to Milford in May, 1879, and at once engaged in mercantile business. He was married to Miss Alice Merrick at Kankakee, January 1, 1874.

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## SHELDON TOWNSHIP.

This township was named after Sheldon, a village within its limits. It comprises town 26 north, range 11 west; and fractional town 26 north, range 10 west of the second principal meridian. The fraction is six miles long, north and south, and has an average breadth of about half a mile. It is occasioned by the divergence of the meridian from the state line. Sheldon township therefore has an area of thirty-nine square miles, or about 25,000 acres. It is located in the eastern tier of townships, nearly equidistant from the county limits north and south, and is bounded on the north, south and west by Concord, Stockland and Belmont townships, and on the east by the state of Indiana.

The surface, except about 300 acres of timber, though formerly 900, located in the extreme northwest portion of the township, and known as Lister's Point, is prairie. The southeastern portion is high and rolling land, known as the Blue Ridge, from which the country descends and becomes nearer level toward the north. The western side of the township is also high and very rolling, the ascent in some places being so abrupt as to form knolls. In the central portion and extending north the land is depressed and nearly level. The higher elevations of the township unfold to the sight a beautiful and far extending landscape,—the scattering residences with their dense groves relieving the monotony of a purely prairie view and adding grandeur to the scene.

Owing to the lay of the land, effectual drainage, that essential feature necessary for the more successful cultivation of the prairie, is easily secured, and it is probable that within the near future not one acre in all the township will suffer for want of efficient drainage. There are no continuous water-courses, the nearest approach being Lister's branch, which was named after an early settler on its banks, and is caused by the drain from the center and eastern portion of the township. It forms a junction near the northwestern portion, and leaves the township about one-quarter mile east of the northwest corner. From the junction on down the stream the wooded banks gradually increase, until they become high and precipitous, forming a permanent pathway for the onward march of the waters in their

headlong race to the Iroquois. The southern portion of the township is also drained to the Iroquois by those streams bearing the unromantic titles of Coon creek and Possum Trot run, the latter a tributary of the former. Both are slough or drain streams, existing only during the wet seasons, and disappear during the dry.

The soil for the greater part is a heavy, black sandy loam. In certain localities, principally confined to the high lands of the western portions, it becomes a light sand. In general it is well adapted for growing the cereals common to this climate, and well sustains the accredited productiveness of the prairie, of which this locality is a part. Corn is the prevailing crop, and in favorable seasons the yield is enormous; wheat, oats and flax do well and are extensively raised, and grazing is carried on to a considerable extent.

#### EARLY HISTORY.

Formerly Sheldon township was embraced within that of Concord, and therefore the early history of the one could include that of the other. But in the present instance we shall endeavor to give a recitation of the events occurring within the present limits of the township of Sheldon, and form a separate account of same. In the early days, when ox-teams were the rule and distant markets a necessity, the now much lauded prairie was literally a desert waste without habitation, and remained so until quite a recent period, the friendly shelter of forests, skirting the neighboring streams, luring the pioneers away; and so we find in all the early settlement of our country, the timbered water-courses peered out to the hardy pioneer, like the north star to the mariner, directing him across the mighty sea. So it was with Sheldon in the extreme northwest corner, a little point of timber skirting the Iroquois extends into the township. It was in this timber that the first settlement was made, the date of which is

“Away far back in the bygone times,  
Lost mid the rubbish of forgotten things.”

It is highly probable, however, that Jesse Eastburn and family made the first settlement within the present limits of the township. He was a native of Maryland, and was born in the year 1770. The exact date of his settlement is not known, but he settled in the timber on section 5, near the center of its western side, where he built a mansion, 18×20, of unhewn logs. The cracks were plastered with mud. A stick chimney reared up at the end, a little old quaint door and window, and an oak clap-board roof completed the house, near which stood the sweep stake with “the old oaken bucket that hung

in the well," which was curbed up with the gums of an old sycamore. A certificate of entry, in the possession of one of his descendants, bears date October 10, 1833, and is probably near the date of his settlement. Next, and probably early in 1834, came William Lister and family; he was a native of Tennessee, and settled on section 6, in the point of timber on the branch (both of which bear his name), and in addition to the farm he conducted a blacksmith shop, it being the first in this portion of the country. Next came Samuel Jones, a native of Kentucky, who is living near his early settlement at this writing. He came here from Indiana in December, 1834. An instrument of writing, dated September 25, 1835, between Jesse and his son, J. B. Eastburn, shows that the latter sold his place in Concord township, and came to and got possession of his father's farm, and conducted the same, and looked after him in his old age. Other early settlers were: P. Shearls, R. Lister, Frank Clark, and William Young, none of whom are here now, locating in the timber which was the scene of all settlement until about 1848; when Zedic Parks—a native of Coshocton county, Ohio, who had been living near Iroquois for a number of years—Cortez-like marched far out into the sea of prairie, and pitched his tent in its midst on the road leading from La Fayette to Chicago, via Iroquois, at a point about one-third of a mile northeast of the present railroad crossing at Sheldon; he engaged in keeping hotel, which was probably conducted on the "corn bread and common doings plan," and also did a little at farming; but he seemed to be a migratory character, for soon he moved back to the timber, and later he

"Folded his tent like the Arab,  
And as silently stole away."

In 1850 O. P. Bookless settled in the timber on section 6, and in 1851 he moved to his present place on the prairie adjoining same. The year 1852 brought Robert and Isaac N. Caldwell, who settled on the prairie about two miles southwest of the present village of Sheldon; J. Davis, also, is said to have settled here the same year. The next year brought J. Daisy, and in 1854, N. H. Waity, Stephen Amos and John Darrough were added to the residents; and in 1855, E. B. Bishopp, from England, and J. W. Murray made settlements. The latter had been living near Iroquois since 1836. Thus the prairie, so long unnoticed, and that seemed a place unfit for the habitation of man, gradually became settled and was soon transformed to a land of beauty, "flowing with milk and honey," where the vine and plant thrive, and where beautiful and pleasant homes have become too numerous to mention. The panting deer and



howling wolf have given way to the domestic animals that may be seen on every hand in countless numbers browsing on the grasses and adding life to the beauty and grandeur of the great prairie, which, brightened by the sun's rays, seems to smile at the early pioneer who formerly chose the dark and lonesome forest for his abode.

Midst all their trials and privations, the early settlers also had their joys and woes. As early as August 11, 1836, death invaded the then young settlement, and called Rebecca, daughter of William Lister, from earthly care. To this family is also accredited the first birth, that of Riley Thomas Lister, April 15, 1837. Another early birth was that of Parker T. Eastburn, November 20, 1838. The latter is a present resident of the township. The first marriage occurred August 19, 1860; the contracting parties were David Mathews and Catharine Robbins; the hymeneal knot was tied by Robert Caldwell, who was also the first justice of the peace.

#### RELIGIOUS MATTERS.

The little strip of timber in the northwest portion of the township was the scene of the early religious gatherings. In those times no cloud-piercing spire marked the spot, nor silver-toned church-bell the hour, when

“Amidst the cool and silence they knelt down,  
And offered to the Mightiest solemn thanks and supplication.”

As early as 1834 a minister by the name of Springer, of the Methodist persuasion, preached in the residence of Jesse Eastburn on section 5. Owing, however, to the death of his horse he soon turned his charge over to brother Essex, who completed the year. The following year brother Walker presided. He was succeeded by brother Olivar, who seemed to begin in earnest. He went among the people and asked them if they wanted religion. Receiving answers in the affirmative, he set about organizing a society which soon numbered twenty-four; but owing to a disagreement regarding the Methodist discipline he would not make them full members. When his year was up he left; Brother Kenoyer, a United Brethren missionary, came and preached, giving the discipline of the United Brethren church, which was accepted and all joined. Frederick Kenoyer preached the first two years. J. F. Miller is the present minister, and preaches at the West Union school, district No. 3, every third Sunday. The society numbers sixty-four members. Connected with the same is a Sabbath school of forty members. It was organized about 1862. The next and successful advent of the Methodists in this township, was in the spring of

1858, when meetings were held in the Hesperian (West) school-house, district No. 2—the Revs. D. Ackerman, A. Irving and O. Smithson, members of the Iroquois circuit, rotating every four weeks. In 1861 a six-room frame parsonage was built at Sheldon. On July 27 of the same year, at a meeting of the Iroquois circuit, it was unanimously decided to change the circuit from Iroquois to that of Sheldon. The first quarterly conference was held at the Hesperian school-house in April, 1862. Preaching continued to be held at this school, and at a house in Sheldon, until 1867, when the present church used by this denomination was built. It is a frame building, size 34×48, and cost, when ready for occupancy, about \$3,000. It was dedicated, July 14, 1867, by Rev. Dr. Munsel, of Bloomington, and now has 236 members. Connected with this organization is a Sabbath school, organized the first Sabbath in January, 1868, with forty members, which has flourished to this day, the attendance now numbering 140. The second society of United Brethren in this township was organized in the Ensen school-house, near Iroquois, about the year 1850, by Jacob, son of Frederick Kenoyer. This school-building served as meeting-house until the winter of 1875. On December 19 of this year, the present church at Sheldon, used by this denomination, was dedicated by the Rev. J. W. Hott. It is a frame building, 20 foot story, size 30×50, and cost about \$2,500. They have preaching every Sunday by Rev. J. Cowgill. Connected with this church is a Sabbath school, organized in 1876, and has a fair attendance.

#### SCHOOLS.

Education, that bright and glittering gem, the peer of prince or fortune, early received that consideration from the inhabitants of this township which its importance demands. From the beginning they manifested an interest in, and lent their support to, the establishment of schools in their midst. Thus as early as 1850 when scarce half a dozen families lived in the township, we find Olivar P. Bookless busied in the cares of a subscription school,—an old log house on the farm of Jesse Eastburn serving as school-building, in which he taught several terms. December, 1856, he began a term in the first district school in the township,—an old log building, 12×14, located on section 8, being the scene of this event. The logs of this ancient temple of learning now form a shed in Mr. Bookless' yard, not far from where they stood in their former grandeur. Another early instructor was Charles B. Harrington, who taught as early as 1857; and though schools may have been in their infancy, the fact did not enhance the salaries paid, at least not so in all cases, as about this time Mrs. Eliza-

beth Waity furnished the building and taught a three-months term for \$40. The first school-house built in the township was in district No. 9, during 1859,—Sarah Darrough being the first teacher in the same. At present there are nine districts and ten schools in the township. District No. 1 has two schools; one, a graded school, is located in Sheldon. It is a large two-story frame building, which was put up at a cost of nearly \$7,000 including furniture. It is presided over by a competent faculty, and a board of directors ever watchful of its best interests, who make it

“A temple of learning and monument of enterprise,”

of which the citizens of this thriving village and surrounding county may well be proud. The remaining schools of this township are in good order, well located, and presided over by competent instructors. The first school treasurer was John McDermet.

#### ORGANIZATION.

Sheldon township was organized April 7, 1868, by the election of the following officers: Supervisor, Dr. L. B. Brown; town clerk, D. W. Ayers; assessor, Parker T. Eastburn; collector, Owen King; magistrates, Robert Caldwell and D. W. Ayers; highway commissioners, A. B. Caldwell, W. Ewen and Jacob Wingard; constables, Seth Burdick and John Danough. The present officers are: Supervisor, B. Bishopp; town clerk, D. J. Eastburn; assessor, E. J. Allhands; collector, A. C. Mantor; commissioners of highways, A. D. Russell, George W. Eastburn and John Fleming, Jr.; magistrates, Dr. D. Greenlee and J. R. Russell; constables, James R. Burk and James T. Dunn. The number of votes polled at organization was 99; at present the number reaches 500. The first assessed valuation of property was about \$120,000. The last assessment reached \$343,472. The population is estimated at 2,000. Though very close and uncertain, it is considered to be republican in politics.

The first road within the township was one skirting the timber in the northwest portion of the township; it led to Chicago via Iroquois. Another early road was one from La Fayette to Chicago via Iroquois. It passed through the eastern side of the township. Owing to the late settlement of the township there were few permanent roads until quite a recent date. At present the township has roads laid out on all the section-lines, and excepting a few miles extend their entire length. Liberal appropriations have been made for the improvement of the roads, nearly all of which have been graded, and their condition compares favorably with those of the other townships of the county.



The township has splendid railroad facilities. The Toledo, Peoria & Warsaw passes through the northern tier of sections from east to west, and the Cincinnati, La Fayette & Chicago crosses the northeastern portion, furnishing an outlet north and south. The Toledo, Peoria & Warsaw was finished in 1860, and proved the beginning of the era of settlement, which was pushed to a wonderful extent after the completion of the Cincinnati, La Fayette & Chicago in 1871. Owing to the very sparse settlement in 1860, but little was done in aid of the Toledo, Peoria & Warsaw railroad, the few residents along the line of road subscribing limited amounts of stock. The Cincinnati, La Fayette & Chicago was put through in 1871. Previous to this the township voted \$25,000 bonds to the Chicago, Danville & Vincennes railroad, the programme of which was carried out by the Cincinnati, La Fayette & Chicago, to which company the bonds were delivered. But owing to some misunderstanding or disagreement, the payment of the bonds was refused, and the matter has been awaiting the decision of the courts.

#### VILLAGE OF SHELDON.

The years 1859 and 1860 will ever be memorable in the history of the broad prairies south of the Iroquois. The latter days of the former year dawned on the completion of the Toledo, Peoria & Warsaw railroad, which proved to be, comparatively, the beginning of the era of settlement of the vast prairies through which it passed. As early as January, 1860, a switch was placed on Sec. 2, T. 26 N., R. 11 W., and named Sheldon; thus, during that cold winter month, the seed of a future city was planted. Soon after the completion of the switch, Messrs. Sherman & Smith put up a small shed and pair of scales, and began grain-buying. This firm was the first to ship goods outward from the switch. Probably the first goods shipped to the switch were five cars of lumber to Mr. Jacob Wingard, who was improving on his farm about one mile south of the switch. The business of the station was transacted from Gilman until March 1, 1860, when William B. Fleager came from there and took charge of the switch—a charge that would have sent less energetic men away in despair. The first day he failed to find a place to board, and so returned to Gilman that night. But the next day found him there again, and he was more successful, finding a boarding place with Mr. William Bussert, who lived about three-quarters of a mile from the switch. He, however, remained there but a short time, as the walking was so very bad, and so he concluded to “batch” it. Accordingly he procured a car, placed it on the switch, and had it serve as residence, depot, freight-house and all combined. He dwelt there until some time in May, when he erected the first resi-

dence at the switch, the style of which was two buildings, size  $14 \times 20$  and  $12 \times 16$ , one placed two feet behind the other. Upon their completion they were occupied by himself and family. In September following, Mr. H. Messer, the county surveyor, surveyed the village of Sheldon, the plat consisting of one ten-acre piece along the railroad, and about 200 lots around the same. The place was laid out on land belonging to the Hon. Judge Chamberlain and James Lawrence, who became the proprietors of the town. The lots were priced from \$25 to \$75, and the sale began at once. The first purchase was two lots for \$100, made by William B. Fleager, who in October following built the first store at the place, and occupied the same with a stock of groceries in November. Later he received the appointment of postmaster. Other early settlers in the village were William Smith, Dr. Barry (who was the first physician to take up a residence in the township), Hugh McCutcheon and William Wood. Dock Brandon opened the first blacksmith shop in the village about 1862. October 8, 1865, Messrs. E. G. Collins and John Steele began business in their steam flour-mill. In 1870 a steam elevator was erected by William B. Fleager. Thus the village steadily increased, and on December 26, 1871, it was incorporated; the vote stood, for incorporation, 24; against, 1. January 2, 1872, the following trustees were elected: William B. Fleager, S. A. Barry, Thomas Thornil, W. B. Fowler and J. R. Tyler. At a meeting held January 8, they elected S. A. Barry, president, and David Greenlee, clerk. On May 5, 1874, under Art. II of the act for the organization of villages, Sheldon was reorganized; the vote standing, for reorganization, 44; against, 13. The trustees were B. Bishopp, J. R. Tyler, R. Ross, William Sloan, O. King and R. Carroll; A. B. Caldwell, police magistrate, and David Greenlee, clerk. The first meeting of the new board was held June 17, 1874. B. Bishopp was elected president, and J. R. Tyler, treasurer; all were sworn in by D. Greenlee, justice of the peace. The village pursued the even tenor of its way, each year adding to the number of its residents and business houses until 1875, when a movement initiated by W. B. Fleager, and joined by other leading citizens, produced a scene of activity seldom ever witnessed outside of the larger cities,—it being no less than the building in one continuous block of fifteen two-story brick store-buildings, known as “Central Block,” thus securing to Sheldon not only the best business block in the county, but the best for many miles around. But such has been the magnitude of the improvements of this thriving, growing city, that they are not confined alone to the “Central,” south of which stands the old pioneer, “Fleager’s Bank Block,” which is a two-story brick, containing the bank and a large double-front store-

room, between which a broad hallway leads to Fleager's hall and the "Enterprise" office. East of the north end of the "Central" is "Commercial Block," which consists of three adjoining one-story brick store-rooms. These blocks, with the single one-story brick store-room opposite the "Central," complete the list of brick business stands in the city, the remaining places of business being frame.

The city is located at the crossing of the Toledo, Peoria & Warsaw and Cincinnati, Lafayette & Chicago railroads, and is noted for its activity in all branches of trade, more particularly the grain trade, in which it has a great and growing interest, stimulated by an active competition.

March 10, 1871, Messrs J. B. Spotswood and E. A. Burns began the publication, from a press in Kentland, Indiana, of a six-column folio, weekly independent newspaper, called the "Sheldon Courier." It was supported by a liberal number of cash advertisements and subscriptions, but expired in a few months.

The "Sheldon Enterprise" is a five-column quarto, weekly independent newspaper, first published December 31, 1874, by H. R. Fields and H. L. Henry. The first copy was sold for \$2.50 at auction, to Joe Bell. Since February 1, 1877, it has been under the management of D. J. Eastburn, the present editor and proprietor.

## FIRES.

Though comparatively a new township, many of its citizens have been sufferers by fire, as will be seen by the following tabular statement :

NAME.	PROPERTY.	MONTH.	DAY.	YEAR.	LOCATION.
E. B. Bishopp.....	Residence .....	October ..	9	1859	Township.
"	" .....	" ..	9	1860	"
John Brandon.....	Blacksmith Shop.....	.....	.....	.....	Village.
J. Russell.....	Hotel.....	April ....	28	1871	"
George Hayby.....	Residence.....	February ..	.....	1873	Township.
T., P. & W. R.R.Co.	Hotel .....	.....	.....	1874	"
E. Julien.....	Tenement House.....	October...	30	1874	"
J. F. Goods.....	General Store.....	September	12	1876	Village.
C. W. Loy.....	Barn and Implements..	July.....	24	1877	Township.
J. T. Dunn.....	Livery Stable.....	May.....	11	1879	Village.
Job Voak.....	Steam Flour Mill.....	" .....	29	1879	"
P. O'Brien .....	Barn.....	August...	2	1879	Township.

## SOCIETIES, ETC.

Sheldon Lodge, No. 609, A.F. and A.M., was chartered October 5, 1869. The charter members were: James Cauvins, William Wood, John Hill, L. B. Brown, C. B. Willard, Scott A. King, Enos T. Soper, A. C. Mantor, A. J. Willard, H. J. Miller, William Warrick and Jacob



Wingard. The first officers were: James Cauvins, W.M.; William Wood, S.W.; John Hill, J.W.; L. B. Brown, Treas.; C. B. Willard, Sec. The present officers are: A. C. Mantor, W.M.; S. H. Atwood, S.W.; William Wood, J.W.; J. R. Tyler, Treas.; J. A. Day, Sec. The lodge has a fine hall, and is in a flourishing condition. It numbers thirty-eight members.

Sheldon Lodge, No. 349, I.O.O.F., was chartered October 9, 1867. The charter members were: W. B. Fleager, D. D. Tullis, James Greese, M. H. Soper, J. W. Darrough, D. M. Brenner and C. L. Hogle. The present officers are: B. M. Michaels, N.G.; G. W. Enslin, V.G.; Charles E. Tullis, R. Sec. and P. Sec., and J. S. B. Jewett, Treas. The lodge has a fine hall, and is in a flourishing condition. It numbers thirty members.

Sheldon Lodge, No. 209, I.O.G.T., was reorganized by John Q. Detweyler, December 2, 1877. The present officers are: J. A. Holmes, W.C.T.; Mrs. John Steele, W.V.T.; Miss Lydia Patterson, W.S.; John Steele, W.T.S.; Mrs. E. Patterson, W.T.; John Brubaker, P.W.C.T.

Sheldon Lodge, No. 1098, Knights of Honor, is a mutual benefit society, and was organized by L. D. Roberts, D.G.D., May 30, 1878. It meets in Odd-Fellows' hall every two weeks. It has a membership of thirteen.

The village of Haxby was surveyed, May 19, 1868, by E. W. Dodson, for George Haxby, on land belonging to the latter. The survey was recorded July 17, 1868. The plat contains about 12 acres, located on the north side of the railroad, at the state line, in Sheldon township. The population is about 75 to 100. Albert Salisbury bought the first two lots for \$50. Oscar Bishop built the first house in the winter of 1862, and sold liquor in the same. In the winter of 1862 the railroad company built two frame engine-houses and a hotel. A few other saloons, and a general store for a short period, constituted the business of the place. Its close proximity to Sheldon excludes a post-office. In the spring of 1879 a school-house was erected on a lot donated by Mr. Haxby. The chief and perhaps only object of the village is to afford convenient accommodations to the railroad hands who constitute the population.

Though a few pioneers made settlements within the present limit of this township as far back as the thirties, they were confined to the timber in the northwest corner. The vast prairie, embracing almost the entire township, was not settled until a much later date, and surely the pioneer period extended until 1860, if not later. Since that time the broad expanse of wild prairie has been transformed into a scene of

industrial activity, scarcely equaled by any township in the county. Since that time two railroads have passed within the bounds of the township, affording an outlet to all the cardinal points of the compass for the surplus products; nearly 2,000 people have become residents; a city of 1,000 people has sprung up, as if by magic; the rude log cabins and shanties have all disappeared, and have been replaced by beautiful specimens of modern architecture, until on every hand we seem to be reminded that this is wonderland.

## BIOGRAPHICAL.

The Eastburns. Prominent among the names of the early settlers of Iroquois county is that of Eastburn. The name appears as early as 1830, since which time five generations have appeared in this county. The early history of the Eastburns traces through a long line of ancestry back to England. Those who came to this county were descendants of Jesse Eastburn, who was born in Maryland in the year 1770. He was twice married, first to Miss Abigail Phillips, of Pennsylvania, and next to Mrs. Barbara Pitinger, of Ohio. By the second marriage there was one child, which died in Ohio, where Mrs. Eastburn had returned after the death of her husband. By the first marriage there were nine children, four of whom have lived in this county: Hezekiah, Joseph B., Jesse Jr., and William, all of whom were born in Adams county, Ohio. Jesse Eastburn, Sr., came to this county about the year 1833, and settled on section 5 of the present township of Sheldon, where he lived until his death. He had been preceded by his son Hezekiah, who settled about three miles southwest of the present village of Iroquois in the spring of the year 1830, and died October 29, 1832. June 6, 1822, he was married to Miss Ann Black, by whom he became the father of five children, three of whom are living: Margaret, Jesse R., and Mary J. May 4, 1836, Mrs. Eastburn married James Crozzar, who settled in this county in the fall of 1830, and died in 1869. Mrs. Crozzar is now living with her daughter, near the place of her early settlement. Joseph B. Eastburn settled in Iroquois county about the year 1833. He married Miss Sarah A. Truitt, a native of Adams county, Ohio. They settled in what is now Concord township, and in 1835 moved to his father's farm in the present township of Sheldon, where he lived until his death, April 14, 1850; she died August 28, 1870. Of their nine children four are living: William L., Parker T., A. M., and David C. Jesse Eastburn, Jr., married Miss Jane Smedley in Ohio, April 7, 1831. She was born in Pennsylvania, January 18, 1809. They settled near Iroquois, in this county, in 1835. In 1870 they moved to Sheldon, where, September 3, 1873, he died. They

had nine children, four of whom are living: Isaac H., James H., Annie A. and David J. Mrs. Eastburn married Mr. Harrison Hedge November 21, 1875. He was born in Massachusetts, February 2, 1813, and moved to New York when quite young, thence to Indiana, where, September 8, 1836, he married Miss Elizabeth Ewan, of New York. She died in Iroquois county, Illinois, in 1868. They had six children: Mercy H., Arthur S., Mary, Samuel, Amanda E. and Cordelia. In 1871 Mr. Hedge moved to Sheldon, and has lived there since. While in Indiana he learned the carpenter's trade, and followed it and farming, but of late years he has lived retired. William Eastburn married Miss Julia A. Moore, a native of Kentucky. They were married in Tippecanoe county, Indiana. He first came to this county in 1833, then returned to Indiana and came with his family in 1835, and lived here until their deaths, March 11, 1870, and February 22, 1871, respectively. Of their ten children four are living: Henry H., George W., Montgomery and Sidney T.

Jesse R. Eastburn, farmer and stock-raiser, Sheldon, was born in Adams county, Ohio, November 4, 1824, and came to this county with his parents in the spring of 1830, and in the latter part of the same year they settled on his present place. In 1832 his father died, and in 1833 he went among his relatives in Tippecanoe county, Indiana, and lived there until 1845, when he returned here and bought out the heirs, and lived on the old homestead since. November 6, 1848, he was married to Miss Tabitha Critchfield, of Ohio. She died November 9, 1854. They had two children: Ann and Ellen. May 1, 1856, he was married to Miss Margaret Howry. She was born in Warren county, Indiana. They had four children, three living: Sarah J., Mattie and Jesse. He owns 290 acres in this county, located three and a half miles northwest of Sheldon. He has held the offices of school director, road commissioner and supervisor.

William L. Eastburn, farmer and stock-raiser, Sheldon, is probably the first child born in Concord township, Iroquois county, Illinois. He was born February 22, 1834. May 12, 1854, he was married to Miss Massa Hougland. She was born in Coshocton county, Ohio. Of their eleven children nine are living: Charles, Joseph B., James, Minnie F., Ella J., Maggie, George, Cynthia and William P. Mr. Eastburn lived with his parents until one year after his marriage, when he moved to his present place. He owns 500 acres in this county, which he has earned mostly by his own labor. Two of his children are married: Charles and Joseph B. The latter was married, October 18, 1877, to Miss Sarah E. Gooding. Charles was married to Berthenia McKimmon, February 14, 1877. His two children, George B. and Jesse, represent the fifth generation of the family in this county.



Parker T. Eastburn, farmer and stock-raiser, Sheldon, is a native of Sheldon township, Iroquois county, Illinois. He was born November 20, 1838, and is probably the second child born within the present limits of the township. He began farming for himself in 1858. August 9, 1871, he was married to Miss Julia A. Moore, who was born in Scioto county, Ohio, July 25, 1843. Of their four children three are living: Luther F., Clara, and an infant. He has held the offices of school director, trustee and township assessor, and has served as supervisor for three years. He owns 326 acres in this county, which he has earned by his own labor. The farm is located three miles east of the village of Sheldon, and is well adapted to stock-raising, in which he is extensively engaged.

A. M. Eastburn, farmer, Sheldon, was born on his present place August 29, 1842, and has always made this his home. In 1861 he began working on his own account, farming part of the present place, and improved an eighty-acre farm about four miles southeast of here. In the fall of the same year he enlisted in Co. C, 51st reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., and remained in service four years and one month. From 1863 he was sergeant. He was in the battles of Island No. 10, Stone River, Chickamauga, Resaca, and Atlanta campaign. At Chickamauga he was wounded, and was in the hospital four months. With others he was captured at Stone River, but was recaptured in a few hours. From the army he returned home and bought out one of the heirs to the old homestead, and has lived on the place since. April 5, 1868, he married Miss Sarah E. Pinneo, who was born in Clark county, Ohio. They had five children, three living: Grace, Nellie and Allen P. He owns 286 acres in this county, which he has earned mostly by his own labor.

David C. Eastburn, farmer and stock-raiser, Sheldon, is a native of Sheldon township, this county. He was born August 12, 1845, and lived at home until 1862, when he enlisted in the 76th Ill. Vol., and remained in the service until the close of the war. He was in the battles of Sabine Cross Roads, siege of Vicksburg, Mobile, and the other engagements of the regiment. After the war he returned home and engaged in farming. April 21, 1866, he was married to Miss Annie E. Webster, of England. They have five children, Francis H., Edith C., Barton T., John C. and William P. In 1868 he moved to his present place and has lived here since. He owns 200 acres of land, which he has earned mostly by his own labor and management.

Isaac H. Eastburn, farmer and stock-raiser, Sheldon, was born in Lawrence county, Ohio, December 5, 1833, and with his parents settled in Iroquois county, Illinois, in 1835. He lived with his parents until he was twenty-four years of age. February 1, 1857, he was married to

Miss Susannah Foy, of Coshocton county, Ohio. After their marriage they moved to their present place and lived there since. In August, 1862, he enlisted in the 76th Ill. Vol., and was in the service three years, serving first as corporal and then as sergeant. He was in the siege of Vicksburg, and the battles of Jackson, Mobile, and the other engagements of the regiment. After the war he returned home and resumed business on the farm which contains 253 acres, located two miles northeast of Sheldon.

James H. Eastburn, farmer and stock-raiser, Sheldon, was born in Concord township, this county, January 2, 1838, and lived at home until August, 1862, when he enlisted in the 67th Ill. Vol. He was made second sergeant and was later promoted to first lieutenant. He was in the service three years and took part in the siege and capture of Vicksburg, and of Mobile, also the other engagements of the regiment. He returned home after the war, and October 26, 1865, was married to Miss Mattie Watkins, of Montgomery county, Indiana. After his marriage he began farming on his own account. In 1866 he moved to his present place and has lived here since. He owns 300 acres of land in this county, located three miles northeast of the village of Sheldon.

Annie A. Eastburn was married to B. H. Thornton, who was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, February 21, 1834. He came to Iroquois county in 1854. The marriage took place November 29, 1857. After the marriage he bought and improved a piece of wild land, on which he lived until 1865, when they sold out and moved to Bates county, Missouri, where they lived until 1873, at which time they returned to Iroquois county, and in 1874 settled on the present place, which was the old homestead farm of Jesse Eastburn, Jr., settled in 1835. Mr. Thornton has held the office of assessor, and also the school offices. Of their eleven children ten are living: Ella, Benjamin, Minnie, Annie, Edward, Charles, Ross, Frank, Nettie and Albert.

D. J. Eastburn, editor and proprietor of the "Sheldon Enterprise," is a native of Iroquois county, Illinois. He was born in Concord township, May 10, 1845. His early life was spent on the farm and attending the district school until at the age of fifteen, when he attended school at Battle Ground, in Tippecanoe county, Indiana, remaining there during the winters and working on the farm during summers until he was nineteen years of age. He then attended the Asbury University at Greencastle, Indiana, at which place he remained for five years, graduating in 1869. He then returned home and engaged as teacher in the High School at Kentland, Indiana. In 1870 he formed a partnership with Dr. Brown, the firm being Brown

& Eastburn. They conducted the drug business in Sheldon for four years, when he sold his interest and visited Kansas, returning in the fall of 1874, and soon after engaging as book-keeper with Daniel Fry, of Watseka. March 8, 1875, he bought an interest in the "Sheldon Enterprise," and June 1 of the same year became sole editor and proprietor, and with the exception of a few months has continued as the same since. February 12, 1873, he was married to Miss Caroline H. Lyon, who was born in Clearfield county, Pennsylvania. They have one child, Ethel C.

Henry H. Eastburn, farmer and stock-raiser, Sheldon, was born in Tippecanoe county, Indiana, January 31, 1839, and came to Iroquois county in 1843 with his parents, and with the exception of two years in Tippecanoe county, has lived here since. He lived twenty-one years with his parents. In 1862 he enlisted in the 76th Ill. Vol., and served over three years. He was at the siege of Vicksburg, Fort Blakeley, and the other battles of the regiment. After the war he returned home and went to farming on his father's farm. December 25, 1868, he was married to Miss Susie Hougland. She was born in this county. They have two children: Samuel and William A. In 1871 he came to his present place and has lived on the same since. His residence was burned January 23, 1879, and he at once built his present residence.

Geo. W. Eastburn, farmer and stock-raiser, Sheldon, is a native of Iroquois county, Illinois. He was born, August 11, 1841, and lived with his parents until 1862, when he enlisted in the 76th Ill. Vol., and was corporal of Co. A. He remained in the service three years. He was in the battles of Vicksburg, Fort Blakeley, Alabama, and the other engagements of the regiment. After the war he returned home and attended school and worked on the farm. March 22, 1870, he was married to Miss Mary E. Bussert, of Ohio. They have two children: Arthur W. B. and Zelda A. After his marriage Mr. Eastburn began farming in Sheldon township, and in the spring of 1872 he came to his present place, and has lived here since. He has held no office except connected with the school and road.

Sidney T. Eastburn, farmer, Sheldon, was born in Tippecanoe county, Indiana, in the year 1852, and came to Iroquois county, Illinois, in 1854. He lived with his parents for sixteen years, and then worked by the month until 1879. February 14 of that year he married Miss Ada Ray, who was born in Wisconsin, and came to this county with her mother when very young. After his marriage Mr. Eastburn settled on his present place and has lived here since. He owns 170 acres in this county, which he has principally earned by his own labor and management.



S. D. Fry, farmer and stock-raiser, Watseka, is a native of Coshoc-ton county, Ohio. He was born January 16, 1832. In 1834 he came to Illinois with his parents, who settled near Bunkum, where he lived until he was twenty-one. April 21, 1853, he was married to Miss Harriet Smith. She was born in Ohio, and died January 30, 1856. Soon after his marriage he moved to Belmont township and farmed until 1867. He then came to his present place and has lived here since. March 22, 1857, he was married to Miss Emily Moore, who was born in Belmont township, this county, November 24, 1837. They had five children, four living: Marion, Annie, Minor and Dicie. He owns 160 acres in this county. He has made many trips by team to Chicago. His first trip was about 1842 or 1843, and he has since made as many as nine trips in one fall. His parents, John and Sarah (Doran) Fry, were born in Virginia. They were married September 27, 1827, in Ohio, where they moved when young. They settled near Bunkum, in Iroquois county, Illinois, in the year 1834. In 1836 he served as a jurymen on the trial of Thomason. He has delivered hogs in Chicago as early as 1834. Of his eight children seven are living. He has always lived in this county. February 12, 1879, his wife died in Watseka, since which time he has been living with his son.

James W. Murray, farmer and stock-raiser, Sheldon, was born in Greene county, Ohio, August 14, 1832, and lived there four years, when with his parents he came to Illinois and settled near Iroquois. He lived there until he was twenty years of age. He then moved two and a half miles to his brother-in-law's, and made his home with him for three years. July 23, 1855, he married Miss M. Johnson, who was born in Coshoc-ton county, Ohio, and died November 25, 1871. They had eight children, four of whom are living: Mary A., Sarah E., Elva and Samuel. In the following December after his marriage he settled on his present place, which he entered in 1853, and has lived here since. He has not been an office seeker, his only office being connected with the school. He owns 129 acres in this county.

James Hougland, farmer and stock-raiser, Sheldon, was born in Coshoc-ton county, Ohio, March 31, 1818. He was born on the farm and his education was limited to less than three months' schooling. At the age of twenty he began renting land of his father. December 25, 1837, he married Miss Hannah Fox, who was born in Muskingum county, Ohio. After his marriage he moved to a house on his father's farm and lived there three years, then went to his father-in-law's farm, where he lived until 1845. He subsequently came to Illinois and rented of Squire Courtright three years, and in 1848 came to his present place. He owns 1,161 acres in this county, which he has

earned by his own labor. Of their ten children seven are living: Eli, Levina, Sarah, Ira, James, Nancy and Charles. His parents, Isaac and Polly (Carpenter) Hongland, were natives of Virginia. Her brother, Thomas Carpenter, is supposed to be the first white child born in Ohio. Eli and Levina (Andrews) Fox were natives of Connecticut, and moved to Ohio at an early day.

Christian Zumwalt, farmer and stock-raiser, Sheldon, was born in Harrison county, Kentucky, September 8, 1824. At the age of four years his parents moved to Fountain county, Indiana, and there conducted a saw and grist mill. In 1835 while there his father died. In 1842 with his mother he moved to Illinois and settled in Vermilion county, where he followed farming. In 1847 he moved to Belmont township in Iroquois county. In 1849 his mother died in Fountain county, Indiana, while on a visit. He then moved to Vermilion county, thence to Iowa, thence to Tazewell county, Illinois, living short periods at each place. He then came to his present place and has lived here since. He owns 180 acres in this county, which he has earned by his own labor and management. He has not been an office seeker, his only offices being connected with the school and roads. In February, 1847, he was married to Miss Salinda A. Oder, who was born in Kentucky, and moved to Vermilion county, Illinois, while young. They had eight children, seven living: Mary J., Martha, Sarah J., Adelia, Charles, George and Franklin.

O. P. Bookless, farmer, Sheldon, was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, January 15, 1820. He was born on the farm and lived there about twenty years. He then took a trip, visiting Philadelphia, Baltimore, etc., and in 1842 traveled south, going by water to Helena, Arkansas, thence to White river, thence on foot two hundred miles up the river, and returned by canoe, thence to St. Louis via Helena, thence to Peoria, Illinois, thence on foot to Middleport, the county-seat of Iroquois county, and worked through harvest. He then went east on horseback to his home in Ohio. In 1846 he went to Parke county, Indiana, and in the spring of 1848 came to Illinois and settled near Middleport. He engaged in farming and lived there until the fall of 1850, when he came to Concord (now Sheldon) township, and one year later settled on his present place. January 1, 1850, he was married to Miss Emily Lister, who was born in Fountain county, Indiana, April 18, 1830. They had seven children, five living: Rebecca A., William, Emily J., Leonard and James. All but William, who is in Kansas, live in this county.

Robert Caldwell, farmer, insurance agent and notary public, Sheldon, is a native of Pickaway county, Ohio. He was born February 22, 1831.

At the age of twenty-one he moved to Rensselaer, Indiana, and in July of the same year came to Illinois and settled on a farm located two miles southwest of the present village of Sheldon. He and his brother Isaac M. were in partnership. Both came and lived together until the war, when Isaac M. enlisted in the 76th Ill. Vol., and took sick and died at Memphis. Mr. Robert has always lived in this township since his settlement here in 1852. In October, 1878, he moved from his farm and occupied his present brick residence in Sheldon. In 1858 and 1859 he was assessor of Concord township. In 1860 he was elected justice of the peace and held the office until 1876. In 1878 he was appointed notary, and engaged in the insurance business, representing the Springfield Fire and Marine, and the New York Life. On August 12, 1856, he was joined in wedlock to Miss Cynthia Pinneo, who is a native of Springfield, Ohio. They have had four children, three living: Orlando B., Leroy and Olive A.

J. R. Tyler, hardware dealer, Sheldon, was born in Waldo county, Maine, March 28, 1832, and lived there until he was eighteen years of age, when with his parents he moved to Shelby county, Ohio, and lived there two years. While there he finished his trade of a carpenter. In the fall of 1852 he came to Illinois, and settled in Texas, Iroquois county, and worked at his trade and carried on his farm for the following fifteen years. He then came to Sheldon and worked at his trade two years, and then went to Gilman. The following year he returned to Sheldon, and worked one year at his trade. After this he engaged in the hardware business, and continued in the same two years. For awhile he worked at his trade again, until 1879, when he engaged in his present business. September 22, 1861, he was married to Miss C. V. Amos, who was born in Indiana, and died October 8, 1871. They had three children: Ora W., Sarah F. and Clara. July 22, 1873, he married Miss Kate Tullis, who was born in Tippecanoe county, Indiana.

David D. Tullis, proprietor of livery and feed stables, Sheldon, was born in Wayne county, Indiana, December 4, 1822, and lived there six years, when with his parents he moved to Randolph county, Indiana; where he lived two years during which time his father died. In company with his mother and family he then moved to Shelby county, where they lived until January, 1839. He afterward went to Tippecanoe county, where, July 27, 1849, he was married to Miss Jane Murdock. She was born in Tippecanoe county, Indiana. In 1850 his mother died at the residence of her daughter in Wayne county, Indiana. In January, 1853, he came to Illinois and settled in Belmont township, this county, and engaged in farming. In March, 1855, he



moved to Middleport township, and in the winter of 1862 he came to what is now Sheldon township. March 1, 1859, he came to Sheldon and engaged in his present business. He has held the office of constable in Middleport township, and for twelve years in Sheldon township. He has also served as deputy sheriff. He has four children living: Charles E., George W., Francis F. and Eleanor J. In 1843 Mr. Tullis drove a family from near La Fayette, Indiana, to Yellowhead Point, in Kankakee county. He passed through here, but there were no settlements between Parrish Grove and Iroquois (old Bunkum). His parents, John and Eleanor (Conwell) Tullis, were natives of Virginia, where they were married. They moved from Virginia to Middletown, Ohio, and thence, in 1816, to Wayne county, Indiana. They raised ten children, five boys and five girls, all of whom married and raised families. Mr. David D. is the youngest and only surviving one of the family.

Dr. Lucian B. Brown, physician and druggist, Sheldon, is a native of Jamaica, Vermont. He was born June 7, 1834, and lived there seventeen years. He then moved to Fitchburg, Massachusetts, and the following year returned to Vermont. In 1853 he moved to Iroquois (old Bunkum), Illinois, and began reading medicine under Dr. S. A. Barry, and continued the same four years. During the winter of 1855-6 he attended Ann Arbor, Michigan; and in 1857 he graduated from the Rush Medical College, Chicago, Illinois. He began to practice regularly in 1856, in Bunkum, and resided there until 1862, when he was commissioned first assistant surgeon 113th Ill. Vol., 3d Board of Trade, and was in service until June 20, 1865. He was promoted to the rank of major-surgeon of the regulars in April, 1864, and March 8, 1865, he was detached and assigned as surgeon-in-chief of the post of Memphis and defenses, by an order of Maj.-Gen. C. C. Washburne. He was relieved June 19, 1865, by Brig.-Gen. A. L. Chétlain, and came to Sheldon, Illinois, where he again resumed his practice, adding the drug business in 1870. He has been identified with that business since, with the exception of two years. Mr. Brown was elected the first supervisor of Sheldon township, and has served as village trustee and president of the board of same. November 14, 1866, he was married to Miss Ella Soper, who was born in Maine. They had five children, three living: Nellie, Grace and Blanche.

A. C. Mantor, carpenter and builder, Sheldon, was born in Franklin county, Massachusetts, August 4, 1809, and lived there four years, when with his parents he moved to New York, where he lived until 1831, during which time his parents died. He then went to Cincinnati and

engaged at his trade of carpenter and builder. He lived there until 1853, when he came to Illinois and settled in Iroquois county, living one year at Iroquois or old Bunkum. He then went on a farm he bought, and followed farming until 1875, when he sold out and built his present residence in Sheldon, occupying it in the spring of 1876. April 23, 1835, he was married to Miss Rebecca Wardall, who was born in England. They had eight children, five living: Lyman, Cornelia, Childs, Annie and Emma.

Dr. S. A. Barry (deceased), was born in Vermont, December 27, 1817. He became a physician, and removed to Anderson, Indiana, where, April 30, 1854, he was married to Miss Moriah Tharp. She was born in Madison county, Indiana. From Anderson they moved to Wabash county, Indiana, thence to Danville, Illinois, thence to Momence, and in about 1854 he came to Iroquois county, and settled in Iroquois. In 1860 he came to Sheldon. He was the first physician in Sheldon township. He continued his residence and practice here until his death, April 12, 1878. Mrs. Barry is living in the old homestead here in Sheldon. Of the three children, two are living: Winnie B. and Birdie B.

Andrew M. Darrough, farmer and stock-raiser, Sheldon, was born in Bracken county, Kentucky, October 23, 1847, and lived there four years, when with his parents he moved to Montgomery county, Indiana, and lived there until 1854, when they came to Illinois, and settled in Sheldon township, where he lived until he was twenty-two years of age. He then moved to Benton county, Indiana, and taught school in the winters, and improved a farm he had bought during summers, living there six years, except one year spent teaching in Parke county, Indiana. He subsequently came to his present place. October 23, 1873, he was married to Miss Matilda Camper, who was born in Parke county, Indiana. They have three children: Ethan, Ricey and Truman. He owns 240 acres of land, located five and a half miles southwest of Sheldon. His parents, Samuel V. and Ricey (Quaintance) Darrough, were natives of Kentucky. They were married in Maysville, and came here as stated.

J. W. Johnson, undertaker and dealer in furniture, Sheldon, was born in Sweden, November 13, 1847, and came to the United States with his parents in the spring of 1854. In the fall of the same year they settled in Beaver township, Iroquois county, Illinois. In the fall of 1855 his father died, and with his mother he went to Chicago, where they lived two years; when, upon the marriage of his mother, they moved back to the farm, and lived there until the fall of 1863, at which time he enlisted in Co. C, 51st reg. Ill. Inf., and served

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until October 21, 1865. He was in the battles of Rocky Face, Resaca, Kenesaw Mountain, Atlanta campaign and Franklin, where he was twice wounded and carried from the field, and confined in the hospital until February, 1865. He soon after joined his regiment and remained with it until his discharge from the army. He returned home and bought out the other heirs to the farm, and conducted it until 1869. He then rented his farm, and visited his native country and the principal countries of Europe. He returned home and spent the summer of 1870 in a grocery store in Kentland, Indiana, and taught school in the following fall. In 1872 he engaged in buying grain at Donovan. He also acted as station-agent and built the first house of the place. He lived there until 1878, when he came to Sheldon and engaged in the hardware business, and in January, 1879, sold out and engaged in the real-estate business, the firm being Fields & Johnson. In July of the same year he added the furniture and undertaking business. March 16, 1873, he was married to Miss Emma C. Johnson, who was born in Sweden. They had three children, two living: Lillie G. and Helma May. In addition to his business interests Mr. Johnson retains his farm of 190 acres in Beaver township, which he has rented.

N. H. Waity, farmer and stock-raiser, Sheldon, was born in Norway, August 24, 1825, and lived there twelve years. With his parents he then came to the United States and settled at Beaver Creek, Illinois, where his parents died. He lived there but a few months, when he went to Monticello, Illinois, and lived there about one year. He returned to Beaver Creek and hired to a Mr. Enslin, living on the Iroquois, and soon after was bound out for four years to a Mr. Scritchfield, with whom he lived six years. He then farmed for himself, and in 1854 settled on his present place. He owns 413 acres in this county, which he has earned by his own labor. September 13, 1849, he was married to Miss Elizabeth Enslin, who was born in Indiana, and died August 3, 1868. Of their three children one is living, Henry E. February 13, 1870, he was married to Miss Rosanna Conghenour, who was born in Iroquois county, Illinois. Of their five children four are living: Della E., Ella S., Charles N. and Frank.

B. Bishopp, dealer in lumber, coal and agricultural implements, Sheldon, was born in Kent county, England, in November, 1838, and lived there nearly sixteen years, when with his parents he came to the United States, and settled in what is now Sheldon township, in 1855, and lived there for fifteen years, during which time he learned the carpenter's trade. September 4, 1867, he was married to Miss Martha A. Moore, who was born in this county. After the marriage he moved to Stockland township, and lived there four years. He



then came to Sheldon and engaged in the lumber business, and took contracts for building. They have five children: Eddie B., W. Frank, Virginia M., Harry B. and John D. In 1878 he was elected supervisor of this township, and has held the office since. He has also held school offices, and the office of village trustee. He owns about 500 acres of land in this county, of which he manages 250, and has 250 rented.

Stephen Buckley, farmer and stock-raiser, Sheldon, was born in Preble county, Ohio, January 2, 1823, and lived there three years, when with his parents he moved to Tippecanoe county, Indiana, and lived there until 1856. He then came to Illinois and settled on his present place, which he bought from the government in 1854. June 3, 1848, he was married to Miss Eliza Jane Harper, who was born in Montgomery county, Indiana. They had six children, five living: Samuel, Delila, Sarah, Alonzo and Moriah E. He owns 645 acres in this county, which he has earned by his own labor. His parents, James and Sarah (Lincoln) Buckley, were natives of North Carolina and Ohio. She died in Tippecanoe county, Indiana, in 1844. He later married Mrs. Jacobs, and in 1854 settled in this county, where he lived about eighteen months. He then moved to Carroll county, Indiana, where he now lives.

R. W. Foster, grocer, Sheldon, is a native of Northampton county, North Carolina. He was born April 3, 1829, and when quite young in years, with his parents moved to Ohio and settled in Logan county, where they engaged in farming. He lived in Ohio until 1856, when he came to Illinois and settled in Iroquois county, in Crab Apple (now Stockland) township, and lived there until 1875, when he came to Sheldon and worked in a lumber yard about one year. Then, in partnership with Mr. Carroll, he bought out the lumber business and conducted it one year. They sold out and Mr. Foster engaged in his present business. In August, 1862, he enlisted in the 76th Ill. Vol. Inf., and remained in service two years. He was in the battles of Vicksburg, Jackson, Benton and the other battles in which his regiment was engaged. In March, 1851, he was married to Miss Huldah Inskeep, who was born in Logan county, Ohio. They had three children, one living, Annettie.

A. B. Caldwell, real-estate and insurance agent, Sheldon, was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, December 17, 1833, and lived there twenty-three years. He then traveled in the west for one year, and in the fall of 1857 settled in what is now Sheldon township. He was engaged in farming in the summers and taught school in the winters for the first ten years, and then confined himself to farming until 1874,

when he moved to the village of Sheldon. He engaged in the hardware business, the firm being Holmes & Caldwell, which continued until June, 1875, when they sold out. In 1876 Mr. Caldwell bought back the business and continued the same until September 1, 1878, when he again sold out, and has since confined himself to the duties of his office as justice of the peace, and to his real-estate and insurance business. March 13, 1859, he was married to Miss Margaret Pinneo, who was born in Clark county, Ohio, and died June 17, 1863. They had one child, Eva. February 13, 1866, he was married to Miss Elizabeth L. Holmes, who was born in Highland county, Ohio. They have four children: Maimie, Nellie, Alburto H. and Fred B.

A. V. Gard, proprietor of a general store, Sheldon, was born in Butler county, Ohio, March 28, 1820. He lived on the farm, working by the month, until he was twenty-two years of age; then married Miss Mary Ann Robertson, who was born in Germantown, Ohio, and died November 5, 1854. After his marriage he began farming on his own account, and about two years later he engaged in the mercantile business in Trenton, Ohio. In 1848 he moved to near Vernon, Indiana, where he engaged in farming; thence to Indianapolis, where he conducted the Holmes House. In 1853 he move to Newton county, Indiana, and settled near the state line, farming for about two years; thence to Tippecanoe county, Indiana; and about 1857 he came to Iroquois county, Illinois, and settled in Beaver township, where he served as supervisor and justice of the peace, and established the Beaver Grove post-office during the administration of Mr. Lincoln. In 1863 he engaged in the general merchandise business in Kentland, Indiana, and in 1865 returned to his farm, where he remained until 1872, except one year in Pontiac, Illinois, where he was engaged in the general store business. In 1872 he again went to Kentland, and was engaged selling lumber and agricultural implements. He also conducted a grocery for two years. In February, 1879, he came to Sheldon, Illinois, and engaged in his present business. November 17, 1855, he was married to Miss Josephine A. Hanger, who was born in Tippecanoe county, Indiana. Of their six children four are living: Orris, Victory A., Fannie M. and Frederick H. There were three children by first marriage: Isaac N., Alexander J. and Ezra P.

William B. Fleager, banker, Sheldon, whose portrait appears in this work, was born in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, September 30, 1830, and lived there twenty-one years, during which time he received a limited education. In 1851 he came west and settled in Peoria, where he engaged as clerk in an iron store, remaining in the same four years. He then took the agency of the Toledo, Peoria & Warsaw rail-

road, at Conger, Illinois, and in addition to the agency engaged in the grain and lumber business at that point. At the end of two years he was offered the agency of the P. & O. E. Ex. and Illinois Central railroads, at Gilman, Illinois, but was allowed only three days' time in which to decide. He concluded to go, and at once sold his business, receiving \$3,000, and at the end of the three days was at his post in Gilman, and there remained until March 1, 1860, when he took charge of Sheldon Station, and subsequently became the leading spirit of the village. Short after his arrival he built the first house of the place, and later built the first store, in which he conducted the grocery business, and receiving the appointment of postmaster he used his store as the office. He also added the lumber business in 1861, and began buying grain and selling agricultural implements. Under his careful and energetic management all branches of his business were successful, and within a few years his grocery business, at first confined to a room 16×26 feet, became a general store with a stock valued at \$10,000, and occupying a room 16×100 feet. The grain business that started in a small shed soon occupied a steam elevator. In short, his business was prosperous throughout in every branch, with the exception of two years when he served as railroad agent and postmaster until 1873, when he sold out his business and built the present Fleager's Bank Building. He engaged in the banking business, and has since invested \$25,000 in buildings—championing a movement that has secured to Sheldon one of the finest brick business blocks in the county. He owns about 500 acres of land in this township, on a part of which he has built his present elegant brick residence. In 1858 he married Miss Mariah Brubaker, of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania; she died in Sheldon, May 15, 1875. There were four children, two of whom are living: Charles G. and Arthur B. March 1, 1877, he married Miss Florence M. Milliman, who was born in New York. They have one child, Clarence Earl. On account of strictly temperate habits and indomitable energy, Mr. Fleager has been successful in business. He is a consistent member of the Methodist church, and has the proud satisfaction, while remembering that he has been the architect of his own fortune, to know that he has so lived as not only to win, but also to deserve, the confidence and esteem of all who know him.

Jacob Wingard, farmer and stock-raiser, Sheldon, was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, March 18, 1819, and lived there nineteen years. With his parents he then moved to Indiana and settled in Carroll county, where he lived until 1861, at which time he came to Illinois, and settled on his present place. January 5, 1841, he was married to Miss Susanna Zook, who was born in Pennsylvania. They



had seventeen children, twelve living: Abraham, John, Catharine, Susanna, Jacob, Alexander, James, Elizabeth, Rosanna, Benjamin, Mary E. and Emily. Formerly he owned over 800 acres of land, but has since divided all but 185 among his children. Two years before he came here he shipped five cars of lumber to his sons, at Sheldon, and they improved the farm. The shipment was the first of the kind to Sheldon, and later he sold Sherman & Smith the first wheat sold at Sheldon. In addition to his land in this county he owns 640 acres in Missouri, all earned by his own labor.

George Haxby, farmer and stock-raiser, Sheldon, was born in Yorkshire, England, October 8, 1811, and lived there twenty-six years. He came to the United States and settled in Dearborn county, Indiana, and farmed there until February, 1862, when he came to Illinois and settled on his present place. In August, 1840, he married Miss Rachel Brown, who was born in England, and died here in 1870. Of their eight children five are living: Martha J., Ellen, Mary, William and Joseph. In November, 1874, he married Mrs. Ellsworth, formerly Miss Mary Ketchler, who was born in England. He owns 580 acres in this county, which he has earned by his own labor, and upon which he has laid out the village of Haxby, an account of which will be seen elsewhere. He is no office seeker, and has held no office except connected with the roads.

R. G. Risser, of the firm of P. Risser & Son, dealers in general merchandise, Sheldon, is a native of Ashland county, Ohio. He was born in July, 1841, and lived in Ohio until 1862, when with his parents he came to Illinois and settled in Onarga, Iroquois county, where his father engaged in mercantile business, in which Mr. Risser assisted for five years. He then became a partner in the business, and the firm of P. Risser & Son was formed and has continued to the present time. In November, 1878, the firm opened a branch in Sheldon, Illinois, known as the New York store, of which Mr. R. G. Risser has the active control. He is also interested in the grain business, for which purpose he uses the large steam elevator lately erected. He is also connected with the firm of Risser & Dashiell, tailors and clothiers, Sheldon, Illinois. The active management of the latter firm is left with Mr. Dashiell. Mr. Risser has his time occupied in the management of the business of P. Risser & Son, and in attending to his grain interests. October 2, 1878, he was married to Miss Eva Dunlapp, of Champaign, Illinois.

T. N. Marquis, farmer and apiarist, Woodland, Illinois, was born in Knox county, Ohio, February 1, 1834. When he was yet quite young his parents moved to Logan county, and he lived there with his

parents until he was twenty-three years old. March 12, 1857, he was married to Miss Hulda A. Curl, who was born in Logan county, Ohio, and died in Illinois in 1869. After the marriage he farmed on his father's farm until 1863. He afterward came to Illinois, and farmed a year in Richland county. He then came to Iroquois county and settled in Stockland township, where he lived one year, and then went to Belmont township, and in the spring of 1867 settled on his present place. By his first marriage he had six children, five living: Elizabeth A., Edith E., Alice E., Mary F., and Caloin. In the fall of 1874 he married Miss Sarah B. Canaday, who was born in Virginia. They have one child, Ellen. He owns 90 acres of land in this county. In 1869 he turned his attention to the culture of the bee, starting with a swarm he caught on the fence. From information he obtained from books on the subject, his business has been successful, and he now has sixty-five hives. His crop of honey for 1878 was 3,200 pounds.

David White, farmer and stock-raiser, Sheldon, was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, January 21, 1841, and lived there about seventeen years, during which time he received a limited education. He then came to the United States, and settled in Cuyahoga county, Ohio, and lived there four years, working on a farm. He then went to Noble county, Indiana, where he worked in the woods; thence to Warren county, Indiana, where he farmed. In 1866 he came to Illinois and settled on his present place, and has lived here since. At first he bought 40 acres, and has since increased his farm to 165. January 3, 1864, he was married to Miss Amanda Hemmilright, who was born in Ohio. They have seven children: William T., John D., Nettie J., Agnes, Emma A., Artie and Ann. He is no office seeker, and has held no office, except those connected with the school or road.

Thomas Thornill, insurance agent, Sheldon, was born in Lincolnshire, England, November 15, 1825, and lived there seventeen years. He then came to the United States and settled in Wheeling, Cook county, Illinois, where he lived seven years, and then went to Wilmington, Illinois, where he lived until 1863. From there he went to La Fayette, Indiana, where he engaged in the insurance business, and lived there until 1867, when he went to Reynolds and engaged in the drug business. In 1868 he came to Sheldon and engaged in the drug business. He was appointed postmaster that year, and held the office seven years. In 1876 he closed out his drug business, and has since been insurance agent. June 17, 1851, he was married to Miss E. J. Waldron, who was born in Onondaga county, New York. They had four children, three living: Franklin P., Endora E. and Jessie B.

Joseph Brubaker, farmer and stock-raiser, Sheldon, was born in



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Richland county, Ohio, July 7, 1826, and lived there twenty-five years, when with his parents he moved to Illinois, and settled in Woodford county, near Eureka, where they engaged in farming. In 1853 he went to Ohio, and February 22 of that year he was married to Miss Anna M. Charles, who was born in Ashland county, Ohio. After his marriage he returned to Woodford county, Illinois, and engaged in farming on his own account, remaining there until 1868, when he came to his present place and has lived here since. He has served as road commissioner four years, and as school director ten years. He owns 490 acres in this county, which he has principally earned by his own labor. Of his four children three are living: Charles H., Wesley V. and Frank A. Mr. Brubaker has been a member of the M. E. church for nineteen years, and steward of the same during that period.

George F. Hull, farmer and stock-raiser, Sheldon, was born in Warren county, Pennsylvania, November 1, 1840, and lived there seven years, when with his parents he moved to Aurora, Illinois, and lived there until 1859. He then engaged as salesman for Hewitt & Bro., general jobbers, Chicago, and traveled for them ten years, receiving the first month \$30; the next six months he worked at the rate of \$50, and then \$125 per month and expenses. On his way from Louisville, Kentucky, to Chicago, he passed this county, and liking its appearance, returned and bought half of section 36, which he has sold, with the exception of his present place of 140 acres. November 24, 1868, he was married to Miss Mary Filer, who was born in Pennsylvania, and died in 1875 here in Illinois. Of their three children two are living: Clara and Frank. April 24, 1877, he was married to Miss Margaret Roberts, a native of Indiana. They have one child, Bertha. Mr. Hull lived on his farm three years, and then, owing to sickness, moved to Sheldon and lived there five years, during which time he was engaged as traveling salesman for J. Bronson, of Detroit, Michigan, in the notion business; J. O. Ely, wholesale jewelry, Chicago; and B. F. Boston, of Pennsylvania, for whom he sold patent-rights in the middle and western states.

Dr. David Greenlee, justice of peace, Sheldon, was born in Rockbridge county, Virginia, September 7, 1807, and lived there fifteen years. He then moved to Ross county, Ohio, with his parents. He lived there until 1837, and studied medicine under Dr. S. Burnham, a class-mate, at Harvard, of Daniel Webster. He afterwards moved to Highland county, and began the practice of medicine, and then moved to Adams, thence to Defiance, and thence to Henry county. In 1869 he came to Sheldon, Illinois, and began the practice of medicine. February 24, 1847, he graduated at the medical branch of the Ohio Hudson

College, his diploma being signed by President Pierce. He is now living with his third wife. Her maiden name was Lydia A. Parker, and she was born in Ohio. They have four children living: Willie F., Irene A., Ida K. and Mary A. In 1873 Mr. Greenlee was elected justice of the peace, and was reëlected in 1877.

John Glass, farmer, Sheldon, was born in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, January 25, 1833, and lived there until 1855. He then went to California via New York and Panama, and remained there five years. He was engaged in mining, and after returning the money he borrowed with which to go, he came back with \$3,200. He went to Pennsylvania and lived with his mother, engaging in the sand business in partnership with Thomas Murdock. They furnished sand for many of the leading buildings of Allegheny. They continued two years. Mr. Glass then went to the oil regions, and superintended the Guepner, Heln & Co. Oil Company, and took interest in other wells. In 1869 he came to Illinois and settled on his present place. March 23, 1871, he was married to Miss Alice J. Darrough, who was born in Kentucky, and died February 1, 1877. They had four children, three living: Mattie, Gracie and Alice. He owns 175 acres in this county, which he has earned by his own labor.

Robert Ross, carriage and wagon-maker and blacksmith, Sheldon, was born in Canada East, December 8, 1843, and lived there fifteen years. He then moved to Lisbon, Illinois, and lived there ten years; during which time he learned the carriage and wagon-making trade. February 7, 1866, he married Miss Margaret Graham; she was born in Canada East. After his marriage he returned to Lisbon, where he had opened a shop in 1863, and lived there until 1869, when he sold out and came to Sheldon, Illinois. He bought out the carriage and wagon-shop formerly owned by Scott King, and in 1871 moved the business to its present location. There are three children in the family: Olive V., Scott G. and Mary E. In addition to his business interests Mr. Ross owns 350 acres of land in this county. In 1873 he was elected village trustee, and reëlected in 1879. He has also served as treasurer during the same period.

J. A. Holmes, postmaster, Sheldon, was born in Kenton, Hardin county, Ohio, in December, 1842, and lived there until 1870, when he came to Iroquois county, Illinois, and settled in Sheldon. He taught school the first winter, and then superintended an elevator for Mr. Fleager for two years, when he engaged in the hardware business, the firm becoming Holmes & Wilkinson, which later changed to Holmes & Caldwell, and they continued the business until 1878, when he received the appointment of postmaster, and has held the position since.



May 11, 1869, he was married to Miss Mary Willmoth, who was born in Ohio. They have two children: Herman R. and Mary.

W. A. Weeks, dealer in general merchandise, Sheldon, was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, April 17, 1836, and lived there twelve years, when, with his parents, he moved to Monticello, Indiana, and lived there until 1871. He then went to Goodland, Indiana, and took charge of an elevator. In March, 1872, he came to Sheldon and engaged in the grocery and provision business. He has kept increasing his stock and variety, until now he has a general store with a stock of \$7,000 worth of goods, consisting of a full line of dry-goods, groceries, boots and shoes, hats and caps, notions, queensware and glassware. January 6, 1857, he was married to Miss Ann Eliza Moore, who was born in Morgan county, Ohio. They had three children, two living: Paschal B. and George A.

H. R. Fields, real estate, loan and insurance agent, Sheldon, was born in Danville, Kentucky, June 10, 1837. At an early age he clerked in his father's store, and later in the Batterton House, of which his father became proprietor. In 1860 he engaged in the dry-goods business in St. Joseph county, Indiana, and continued the business until 1863, when he enlisted in Co. H, 12th Ind. Vol. He was promoted to second and then to first lieutenant. His first year's service was among the guerillas of northern Alabama. September 14, 1864 he was appointed ordnance officer on the staff of Maj.-Gen. Millroy. He was at Murfreesboro, second battle of Stone River and the other engagements of the regiment. After the war he returned to St. Joseph county, Indiana, and farmed until 1868. He then went to Morocco, Indiana, and engaged in the dry-goods business. This he continued until 1872, when he engaged in the business at Iroquois, Illinois, and remained there until 1873, when he came to Sheldon, and in the latter part of 1874, in company with H. L. Henry, began the publication of the "Sheldon Enterprise." In June, 1875, he sold his interest in the paper, and has since been engaged in the real estate, loan and insurance business. In the real estate department of his business he has associated with him Mr. J. W. Johnson, the firm being Fields & Johnson. They publish the "Real Estate Bulletin," and do a thriving business, in addition to which Mr. Fields represents several of the leading insurance companies, and is agent for the Anchor, Inman and State line ocean steamers. By unceasing toil and honest effort he has earned for himself the reputation of an active, energetic business man, and carries this trait into all branches of his business.

Risser & Dashiell, tailors and gents' furnishers, Sheldon. Mr. Risser, of this firm, is spoken of under the firm of P. Risser & Sons.

Chas. E. Dashiell, who is the active partner and business manager of the firm of Risser & Dashiell, was born in Dearborn county, Indiana, January 24, 1849. During his infancy his parents moved to Kankakee county, Illinois, where they lived about twelve years; then moved to Iroquois county, Illinois, near St. Mary; thence to Kankakee city; thence to Chebanse, where his father died. The family then moved to Kankakee city. In 1871 he made a trip to Griffin's Corners, New York, where, September 6 of that year, he was married to Miss Cara E. Lee. They returned to Kankakee and lived there one year, he being engaged as clerk in the merchant tailoring business. He then bought grain at Waldron, Illinois, and subsequently sold merchandise there and at Morocco, Indiana. In 1876 he came to Sheldon, Illinois, and bought the business of O. King and conducted the same until January, 1879, when the present firm of Risser & Dashiell was formed, occupying No. 5, Central Block. The first floor, 25×60 feet, is used as a salesroom, in which is exhibited a large stock of piece goods of great variety. The second floor (same size) is used as a work room, and is thronged with a busy set of city workmen of the best ability, thus affording to the city of Sheldon and surrounding country facilities in the tailoring line rarely to be found outside of the larger cities. In addition to their splendid tailoring establishment, the firm carries a large stock of ready-made clothing and a full line of gents' furnishing goods.

W. H. Harry, attorney-at-law, Sheldon, is a native of Woodford county, Illinois, and was born on his father's farm, near Eureka, November 28, 1853. In 1865, with his parents, he moved to Livingston county, Illinois, to their farm, two and a half miles from Chatsworth. He received a common-school education, and at the age of twenty taught a four-months term of school. April 1, 1874, he began reading law with the Hon. Samuel T. Fosdick, present state senator from the eighteenth district, comprising Livingston and Ford counties. He continued his residence at home, walking the two and a half miles morning and evening, and thus pursued his studies during the summers and taught school during the fall and winter until June 1, 1876, when having completed his course of reading, he was admitted to the bar, passing an examination before the supreme court, then holding at Mt. Vernon, Illinois, and July 24, 1876, he came to Iroquois county, Illinois, and began the practice of law in Sheldon, and has remained here since. He was married to Miss Minnie Vale, of Livingston county, Illinois, April 4, 1877. They have one child, Edward S. His parents, Thomas S. and Arena J. (Compton) Harry, were natives of Kentucky. They were born August 31, 1823, and December 11, 1823, respectively. They were married October 2, 1844.

H. G. Dryer, grocer, Sheldon, is a native of Butler county, Ohio. He was born March 9, 1830, and lived there two years, when, with his parents, he moved to Tippecanoe county, Indiana, and lived there until November, 1865. He then moved to Champaign county, Illinois, and engaged in farming. In February, 1873, he went to Newton county, Indiana, and engaged in the general merchandise and stock business at the village of Brook, and continued there until September, 1877, when he came to Sheldon and engaged in his present business. February 28, 1858, he married Miss Catharine Lindley. They had four children, two living, Irven and Charlie.

J. Watkins, dealer in lumber, grain, coal and agricultural implements, Sheldon, was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, December 24, 1820, and lived there eleven years, during which time his father died. With his mother he then moved to Montgomery county, Indiana, and lived there until 1851. He was principally engaged in farming. He afterward came to Illinois and settled in Momence, and farmed three years, after which time he came to Iroquois county and settled near Bunkum, and lived there until 1863. He went to Onarga and engaged in the bakery business, continuing the same four years. He then went to Will county, Illinois, and farmed for ten years, and in 1877 came to Sheldon and engaged in his present business. September 3, 1840, he was married to Miss Mary Conner, who was born in Ohio. They had seven children, six living: Elizabeth J., Clara E., Martha I., James W., John D. and Charles G.

Dr. A. C. Speck, physician and druggist, Sheldon, is a native of Preble county, Ohio. He was born August 3, 1830, and lived there ten years, when with his parents he moved to Miami county, Indiana, where at the age of twenty-four he began studying medicine with Dr. J. T. Speck. In 1855 he went to Minnesota, and settled in Dakota county, where he improved a farm and practiced medicine. He also continued reading, until January 1, 1863, when he enlisted in the 3rd Minn. Cav., and remained in the service about two years and nine months. After the war he went to Kentland, Indiana, and practiced medicine, attending lectures at the Ohio Medical College of Cincinnati, during the winters of 1865, 1866, 1867 and 1868, graduating in the latter term. In February, 1878, he came to Sheldon, Illinois, and engaged in his profession and the drug business. In 1854 he was married to Miss Naomi Taylor, who was born in Henry county, Indiana, and died March 18, 1863. Of their three children one is living, Frank E. His present wife was Miss Sarah M. Brokan, a native of Hamilton county, Ohio. They were married July 23, 1868.



## CONCORD TOWNSHIP

Formerly comprised towns 26 and 27 north, range 11 west, and fractional towns 26 and 27 north, range 10 west of the 2d principal meridian. In 1868 a portion of this territory was detached, and formed into the township of Sheldon, and as a separate account of the latter is given, we will here confine ourselves to the events occurring within the present limits of Concord township, which comprises town 27 north, range 11 west, and fractional town 27 north, range 10 west of the 2d principal meridian. It extends along the state line, between the township of Beaver on the north and Sheldon on the south, a distance of six miles, and has an average width, east and west, of six and three-quarter miles, and therefore contains about 26,000 acres. The township is well watered by the Iroquois river, which flows through it, entering near the middle of the eastern side, and leaving near the southwest corner. Throughout the entire distance there is a heavy growth of timber, which extends for a mile or more on either side of the river, and comprises fully two-fifths of the total area of the township, and affords an abundant supply of wood for fencing, fuel and building purposes. Beyond the timber, and extending beyond the limits of the township, the country is prairie. North of the river it is high and rolling, and of a generally light sandy soil, though in portions, mostly on the eastern side, where the surface becomes more level, areas of black loam are found. South of the river the country presents a level plain, gradually ascending to the south, forming an immense river basin of beautiful and fertile prairie of black, sandy loam, and of unsurpassed productiveness. Adjoining the timber, the soil is well adapted to wheat, which is extensively grown. Corn is the prevailing crop on the prairies, and good average yields are obtained. The township is well adapted to stock-raising, in which the people are largely interested. The early history of this locality has been so fully treated of in other portions of this work that but little remains for us to write. The nucleus of the settlement, as has already been stated, was the trading post that was removed by Gurdon S. Hubbard from the Big Bend, near Middleport, to this place. When Mr. Hubbard had concluded to change his mode of transporting furs and other products from the flat-boat, down the Iroquois, to that of the pack-mule, by way of the Hubbard trace, he found that this point on the Iroquois was on a more direct and available line from Danville (his southern post) to Chicago. He, with his help, both white and red, were then the first settlers in

this portion of the county. In addition to their trading operations, they also opened farms in the vicinity of Bunkum. The residence of Hubbard and Vasseur, however, was but temporary, as the change in the policy of the government toward the Indians, with whom their trade was largely carried on, and the growing scarcity of fur-bearing animals, left them but a modicum of their former large business. Hubbard sold out to Vasseur and removed to Chicago, about the time of the removal of the Indians to their reservations beyond the Mississippi, and Vasseur continued here for three or four years more, when he removed to Bourbonnais Grove, in Kankakee county, where he has recently died. William H. Dunning now occupies the place formerly opened by Hubbard, and B. F. Fry that of Vasseur. These two men were the first permanent settlers of what is now in the bounds of Concord township. Elijah Newcomb, H. Eastburn, R. Scritchfield, J. Hougland and J. Crozzar were here about the same time, or a few months later. Mitchell Dunn was a resident here as early as 1831 or 1832. He was one of the first justices of the peace, and two or three years after his arrival was elected sheriff, and was acting in that capacity when Thomason, who was hanged here for the murder of Charles Legree, a blacksmith of Chicago. Sheriff Dunn officiated on the occasion. In the winter of 1830-1, Mr. B. F. Fry husked the first corn raised in this county for exportation, and which was raised on Mr. Hubbard's farm. In the spring the crop was loaded on a flat-boat, and accompanied by a half-breed (Joe Babee), Mr. Fry took the same to Chicago, by way of the Iroquois, Kankakee and DesPlaines rivers and the Chicago swamp. The corn was delivered at Fort Dearborn, which, with a few shanties, then embraced the city.

Other early settlers were: Henry Enslen, Asa Gaffield, A. Pineo and George Courtright. Isaac Courtright was the first postmaster. He was also first justice of the peace in what is now Concord township. He was elected in 1833, when Iroquois county was still a part of Vermilion. After the organization of Iroquois county, E. D. Boone was the first justice. Adam Karr was the first blacksmith in the township. His shop was located on the north branch of the river, near the present site of the wagon-bridge. He continued to ply the hammer from about 1836 till 1840.

By the year 1837-8, families had located on both sides of the Iroquois, so that most of the land in the edges of the timber was occupied. The first settlements here, as indeed all over the prairie country, were made in or very near the timber tracts. It was not dreamed that the broad expanse of country, destitute of trees, could

ever be fit for aught else than for a range for stock. But slight additions in the way of new settlers or permanent improvement were made from the date mentioned, for nearly twenty years. Natural causes account for this standstill and for the sudden second growth, which began about the year 1855, and has continued ever since. In 1837 came the great financial crash, which stopped not only the wheels of the emigrants' wagons, but the wheels of commerce, trade and every industry in the country. The timber tracts had been pretty generally settled, and what few emigrants there were, pushed on further west, until they could find a spot more resembling their old Kentucky or eastern homes, than the bleak prairies still unoccupied. The advent of the railroads in 1854, followed by others in quick succession, explains the late sudden development of the prairies. The railroads have made an outlet for the products of the prairies, and have neutralized the predicted dearth of fuel and building materials, by the importation of coal and lumber from other parts. Then, too, Nature had stored up under nearly every farm in central Illinois enough fuel to supply each one for untold generations. With these advantages, and with the discovery that the prairie soil was not only fertile, but that it was already cleared for the plow of the husbandman, it does not seem so wonderful that this locality, in the short space of two decades, should increase in population to its present number. The improvements have been wonderful, but being based on natural causes, which still exist and which will continue to grow, it is not too much to predict that the full development of Concord is yet far from being realized.

#### IROQUOIS.

E Pluribus Unum! The little village of Iroquois embraces within its limits the remains of several former towns, which, though they will never appear among the incorporated villages of the county, will ever retain a place in the pages of its history; and to many, at this day, the mention of their names will cause memories of those good old times of long ago, and of the friends who together formed the characters in the exciting scenes and events of that period; and no doubt among the many pleasant memories of the survivors of that old historic band will mingle those of sorrow, for those friends of old who are no more, and affection and regard will flit to distant lands, where others have gone to do their battle of life. Montgomery,—the one, the ancient sentinel of the Iroquois, whose early struggles were witnessed by the noble red man of the forest, and secured for it the position of first among the pioneer towns of the



county,—was surveyed May 9, 1835, by J. H. Reese, deputy surveyor, holding his certificate of appointment from Dan Beckwith, county surveyor of Vermilion county. It was located on the south side of the river, and was the first county-seat. The seat of justice was fixed there on April 15, 1837. The county records were kept at the house of Isaac Courtright, three-fourths of a mile south of Montgomery, until Monday, June 5, 1837, when the first county commissioners court was held in a frame building situated on lot No. 10 in the town of Montgomery, rented from William Armstrong, for county clerk's office, at \$2 per month. It must not be understood that Isaac Courtright's was the first place where the county commissioners court was held and the county business done after the organization of the county. The seventh term of commissioners court was held at Courtright's, on Monday, June 1, 1835, when it was removed from John Nilson's, near Milford, and the same continued to be held there until the time already stated, when the office was removed into Montgomery. This place took its name from the proprietor, Richard Montgomery.

Dr. Timothy Locey was the first tavern-keeper in Montgomery, he having a stand there as early as 1831. Mrs. Locey was a tasty, punctilious landlady; if her guests did not order their behavior and proceedings to her pleasure, even to cutting the butter straight at the table, she would promptly notify them of the misdemeanor. David Meigs was the next tavern-keeper of any note. Richard Montgomery soon succeeded him in the same stand. John White came next after Montgomery. The latter (Montgomery) obtained his first license to keep tavern on Monday, March 2, 1835, for which he paid \$5, at the same time entering into bond of \$300. In those days they kept bars. Bunkum has always been the popular name for both places together: Montgomery and Concord. In 1830 the following-named persons settled at Bunkum: Benjamin Fry, George Courtright, Richard Courtright, the widow McColloch and her two sons (William and Solomon), Hezekiah Eastburn, and Reuben Critchfield.

Concord was surveyed on the north side of the river and opposite to Montgomery by James H. Reese, who was deputed for that particular task by Jonas Smith, surveyor of Iroquois county. The place was laid out between May 20 and 28, 1836. The plat bears the latter date, at which time the proprietor, Henry Moore, made acknowledgment of the same before Judge (Gov.) Ford.

Iroquois has never supplanted the name of Concord: Concord lies north of the river, Montgomery and Iroquois south of the river. At present there is nothing like a town south of the river. However,

the plats of Montgomery and Iroquois have never been vacated, and the ground is still taxed as lots. The actual location of the county-seat by the commissioners was at Iroquois, adjoining Montgomery, but as no buildings were in Iroquois, the county office was kept, and the courts held, in Montgomery. The election at Bunkum in 1833 was the first held in the county.

Probably the first white child born in Concord township was William L. Eastburn; he was born February 22, 1834. Another early birth was that of Mr. Fry's daughter, Amanda; she was born in November, 1835, and died in infancy.

The first marriage took place October 12, 1832, the contracting parties being George Courtright and Agnes Newcomb. The license was procured in Danville, Illinois, and the ceremony was performed in an old log house, located on the place, now known as the Wright farm.

Following close in the wake of the pioneers to this township, came that dreaded visitor, death, whose presence had been made manifest in such varied forms, as seems to have exhausted the agency of power.

"Old age has been engaged,  
Tender infants low were laid,  
Even the hangman's fatal knot,  
Again the landslides rushing rock;  
Now the river in its might,  
Then the bold assassin's knife;  
Disease so often to the task,  
And the lightning's vivid flash,—"

Have all served, and form one phalanx in that irresistible army to which all must succumb. The first death to occur within the present limits of Concord township was that of Elijah Newcomb, in the spring of 1831. Another early death was that of Hezekiah Eastburn, October 29, 1832.

#### CRIME.

Gladly would we draw a veil over the succeeding paragraphs in the annals of this ancient town, so cherished in the memories of the past. Certainly it is an unpleasant duty to record murders and their consequences among the chapters of a locality so full of historic gems. But such is stern reality. Joseph Thomason, alias Joseph F. Morriss, alias Joseph F. Norriss,\* was tried, on a change of venue from another county, for the crime of murdering Charles Legree, a

\* He claimed Morris when arrested. Before the justice he called himself Norriss, but was afterward recognized as Thomason.

blacksmith of Chicago. The crime was committed about eighteen miles south of Chicago. He was tried on the third Monday of 1836, before Judge (Gov.) Ford, who at that time presided over the district of which Iroquois county was then a part. The jury was out six hours, when a verdict of "guilty" was announced. On June 10 he was hanged to a tree on the north bank of the Iroquois, about one rod east of the site of the wagon-bridge.

In July, 1862, at a dance held in Iroquois for the 76th regiment, a man by the name of Landen, a resident of Middleport, had a huckster stand. He formerly lived in Rensselaer, Indiana, where he met John Anderson, a blacksmith, and at the time of the dance a resident of Iroquois, Illinois. They had some words, Anderson racing Landon, and shortly the latter was found to be stabbed, from the effects of which he died. Report says he named Joe Davis, then John Anderson as the man who stabbed him. The latter was tried, and was discharged for want of prosecution, the witnesses being in the army.

Again: May 5, 1877, Iroquois was the scene of a bloody affray. This time Charles Pinkerton killed Samuel Kelly. Pinkerton was working for Kelly in the latter's livery stable. Pinkerton, with others, was on a spree in the stable, and Kelly went to quiet them. They had words, then blows, and Kelly was stabbed, the wound proving fatal. Pinkerton was tried and sentenced to three years in the penitentiary.

#### INCIDENTS, ETC.

Probably with all early settlements are associated amusing incidents and little stories, in which the names of the pioneers of their respective localities appear, and as one from Concord, illustrating the mettle of her pioneers, we relate the following, in which Mr. Benjamin Fry was the character. He settled here in 1830, when the "noble red man" roamed the forest at will, and, as was the case, they had a camp close by Mr. Fry's. They had many dogs, and these were very unfriendly to Mr. Fry's hogs, until, as a last resort, that gentleman took to shooting the offending canines, and sometimes went into the Indian camp to exact his vengeance. This unflinching bravery won for him the praise of the Indians, and the squaws gave the title of "Heap Brave" to the bold white man; and as a mark of respect for him, or fear for their dogs, would always shoulder the latter in passing his residence, and carry them far out of sight.



## RELIGIOUS MATTERS.

Scarcely had the sound of the pioneer's ax died away in the forests of the Iroquois until religion appeared, and cast its benign influence upon the scene; the scattered residents assembling in the rude log cabins of the day, there, in humble silence, to hear the divine teachings of Christianity expounded by those earnest, sincere and noble characters, the pioneer ministers, who throughout our land early followed the first footsteps of man to the western wilds, and brought religion, with its christianizing effect, in his midst. The particulars relating to these pioneer religionists, and the societies they formed, are somewhat shrouded in doubt, time having wrought such changes as in instances not one member of former religious societies remains. However, some of the old timers are yet here, as may be judged from the following extract from a letter written by the Rev. Stephen R. Beggs, of Plainfield, Illinois, bearing date December 9, 1879: "I have preached several times on both sides of the Iroquois river, only as a visitor the first time. In 1832 I passed through on my way to La Fayette, Indiana. I am well, thank the Lord, and able to preach twice on Sabbath. I shall be seventy-nine years old the 30th of March, 1880." Perhaps Mr. Beggs was the first to preach in Concord township, and probably the next was brother Essex, of the Methodist persuasion, who in 1833 was on a circuit extending from Spring Creek to Rensselaer, Indiana, and from the Wabash to the Kankakee. During the winter of that year he preached at the residence of Benjamin Fry. He was succeeded, in 1834, by Elihu Springer, who organized the first religious society in the township. It was composed of eight members, and his quarterage was \$24.14. Leonard Walker, his successor, reported seventy members. The society has flourished to this day. In 1872 they built a church edifice, which is located on the Indiana side of the state line, east of the village of Iroquois. It is a frame building, 32×45, and 18-foot ceiling, and cost about \$1,500. The present membership numbers about forty. In 1873 a Sabbath school was organized, and continues during the summers.

The village of Iroquois was also the scene of early religious gatherings, though no regular services were held until the building of the present M. E. church, which is a frame building, 30×40, and has a 16-foot ceiling. It was erected in 1875, at a cost of \$2,300, and was dedicated by Elder Robert Pearce, January 9, 1876. The present membership numbers about one hundred. In 1873 a Sabbath school was organized, and now has an attendance of about one hundred.

In 1846 John Dollarhide, a United Brethren, formed a society, which after a few years joined the Methodists.

In 1850 Jacob Kenoyer, also a United Brethren, formed a society in the Enslen school, about one mile south of Iroquois, and it has flourished to this day. In 1875 they moved to their new church building in Sheldon.

In 1854, a M. E. society was formed at the Iroquois school house, and flourished until the time of the war, when it disbanded. It is probably very seldom that the church building precedes the society, but in the instance of the Prairie Dell M. E. church, we find an exception. This church is a frame building, 36×50, and has an 18-foot ceiling. It was erected in 1870, at a cost of \$2,400. It was dedicated by the Rev. Mr. Atchinson, of Kankakee. Mr. William Brown and Samuel Warrick were the projectors, and each donated about one-quarter the entire cost, the balance being subscribed in the vicinity. It is located on the southeast of the northwest of section 18. In the fall of 1869 a cemetery was laid out adjoining the church. It was deeded to Samuel Warrick, S. Cobb and William Brown, and by them sold out in lots, the proceeds going to keep up the grounds.

#### SCHOOLS.

The characteristic feature of America is her public schools. Indeed it has been said by able ones, that the worth of a people is found in their schools. If this be so, surely the people of Concord rank high in the scale of merit, and should ever be held in grateful remembrance, many of whom owe their instruction to the efficient institutions of learning, whose origin date away back almost to the first footsteps of the pioneer. It is probable that the first school was taught in 1835 by Judge Hugh Newell, in an old log residence. Benjamin Scott also taught near that date. He was the first school treasurer, and the second sheriff of the county.

From Mr. P. V. Frounfelter, the present school treasurer, we get the following items in his report for the year ending June 30, 1879: Number of school-houses, 8; number of children under 21, 632; number of children between 6 and 21, 370; number of children enrolled in the schools, 335; principal of township fund, \$3,480.90; tax levy, 1878, for schools, \$2,056.53; value school property, \$6,850; value school library, \$40; value school apparatus, \$555; expenditures for the year ending June 30, 1879, \$2,401.67.

There is also one private school, having an attendance of 59 scholars. The first school money, \$151, was loaned to John White,

November 16, 1836. The first school-house was built in 1840, and James Perry was the first teacher. The present two-story brick graded school in Iroquois was built in 1875.

#### ORGANIZATION.

Concord township was organized at a meeting held in a school-house in Concord in April, 1856, by the election of the following officers: Jesse Eastburn, supervisor; A. O. Whiteman, town clerk; Abraham Hogle, assessor; P. V. Frounfelter, collector; Samuel Warrick, overseer of the poor; A. C. Mantor, Isaac M. Caldwell, James H. Karr, highway commissioners. The present officers are: W. B. Simonds, supervisor; Jerome Salkeld, town clerk; H. Russell, assessor; P. V. Frounfelter, collector; Abraham Hogle, Robert Karr, George Pineo, highway commissioners.

#### SOCIETIES, ETC.

With the progress and development of a community come those beautiful little gems in the panorama of life, those forms by which members are collected together for the noble purpose of lending a helping hand to those in adversity and need, of uniting in stronger bonds of friendship, and of promoting the general good. To their credit, be it said, most communities have adapted and fostered them, and Iroquois is not the exception.

On October 3, 1866, was chartered O. H. Minor Lodge, No. 506, A.F. and A.M., Iroquois, Illinois. The following were charter members: John Anderson, S. B. Norton, Putman Gaffield, Edward Peachin, Dr. Ford, W. C. Shortridge, Aaron F. Kane, John Strickler, F. M. Karr, Corbin Treadway, A. C. Mantor, A. C. Taylor and Amos O. Whiteman. The first officers were: S. B. Norton, W.M.; Edward Peachin, S.W.; Aaron F. Kane, J.W.; F. M. Karr, Treas.; W. T. Shortridge, Sec. The present officers are: W. H. McClain, W.M.; J. H. Karr, S.W.; A. T. Crozier, J.W.; P. B. Strickler, Treas.; B. F. Hartman, Sec. The lodge is in good condition, owns a beautiful hall, and has forty-three members.

River Lodge, No. 586, I.O.O.F., Iroquois, Illinois, was instituted by E. B. Sherman, G.M., assisted by John Shaftner, G.W., August 31, 1875. The following are the charter members: Joseph McClain, J. P. Murray, W. H. McClain, Daniel Spitler, Theodore T. Fields, Joseph Laughlin, and H. L. Easter. The first officers were: Joseph McClain, N.G.; Daniel Spitler, V.G.; J. P. Murray, Sec.; H. L. Easter, P.Sec.; Joseph Laughlin, Treas.; Joseph McClain, Rep. to G. Lodge. The present officers are: B. F. Hartman, N.G.; Henry



Mee, V.G.; W. B. Simonds, Sec.; W. H. McClain, P.Sec.; W. S. Torbet, Treas.; W. B. Simonds, Rep. to G. Lodge. The lodge is in good condition, holds meetings in the Masonic Hall, and has twenty-three members.

The Blue Ribbon Society of the A.C.T.U. was organized, by Mrs. Trego, of Coshocton county, Ohio, in the winter of 1878-9. The records have been destroyed by fire. They have about 200 members, and meet every Friday night.

An Anti-Profane Society was formed by the Rev. L. W. Bicknell, Baptist minister, in the summer of 1879. They have over 200 members, meet every Wednesday night, and are working a great good.

A Good Templars' lodge organized May 29, 1876, has since disbanded.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

Benjamin Fry, deceased, the subject of this sketch, and whose portrait appears in this work, was born in Virginia, July 24, 1803. Soon after his birth his parents moved to Pennsylvania, thence to Ohio, thence to Indiana, and in the fall of 1830 he came to Iroquois county, Illinois, and worked for Gurdon Hubbard at \$8 per month for the first year, and \$10 for the second. The third year he became a partner, and continued as such during the Black Hawk war. He was at Chicago at the signing of the treaty, and was one of the commissioners appointed by the governor to distribute goods to the Indians. He returned to Iroquois county, and later bought the old Vassar farm, now occupied by his sons, B. F. and M. V. B., and upon which he lived until his death, November 23, 1876. Mr. Fry was one of the first white men to brave the dangers of a life among the Indians, and mention of some of his adventures will be made elsewhere in the history of the township in which he was a resident.

William H. Dunning, farmer and grain-buyer, Iroquois, was born in Cayuga county, New York, April 14, 1815, and lived there until 1834, when with his parents he came to Illinois, and settled on the old Hubbard farm adjoining Iroquois, which his father had previously bought. He lived there two years with his parents, and then went to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and farmed there for thirty-two years. In 1870 he came here to Iroquois and occupied the old homestead. In 1874 he built his present elevator, which he rented until 1876. He then engaged in grain buying and occupied his elevator. In September, 1852, he married Miss Jessie M. Tonkin, who was born in England. They have one child, Eber T., who is now practicing law at Greeley, Colorado. He owns 444 acres in this county, adjoining the village of Iroquois. His parents, Eber and Margaret (Thompson)

Dunning, were natives of Cayuga county, New York ; were married there, and there she died. His second wife was Achsah Rogers. They came here in 1834. He died in 1862. She then moved to Sheldon, where she died in 1875.

Peter Strickler, farmer and stock-raiser, Iroquois, was born in Page county, Virginia, April 6, 1827, and lived there until 1835, when with his parents he came to Illinois and settled in this township. He lived with his parents until he was twenty-nine years of age. November 11, 1856, he married Miss Mary Ann Cline, who was born in the same place, and died here in Illinois, November 24, 1870. Of their five children four are living: Laura, Lewis, Mary E. and Alice G. July 24, 1871, he married Miss Martha Tharp, who was born in Indiana. They have two children: Frank and Hattie L. In February, 1865, he enlisted in the 155th Ill. Vol., and was in service until September 20 following. He owns 80 acres in this county, located on both sides of the line between this and Beaver townships, near the state line.

Robert Karr, farmer and stock-raiser, Iroquois, was born in Brown county, Ohio, February 7, 1815, and lived there until 1833, when, with his parents, he moved to Vermilion county, Illinois. They settled near Georgetown, where they lived until the spring of 1836, when they came to Iroquois county, and he improved a farm adjoining the one on which his father settled. He lived with his parents until October 27, 1839, when he married Miss Caroline Strickler, who was born in Shenandoah county, Virginia. After his marriage he moved on his farm and lived there until the fall of 1866, when he came to his present place. Of their five children four are living: Catharine, Harvey, Marion and Oran. He owns 300 acres in this county, which he has earned by his own labor. Mr. Karr was an early visitor to Chicago, working there on the piers as early as 1834. He drove a team there in 1835, and many times since.

Elijah Karr, farmer and stock-raiser, Iroquois, was born in Brown county, Ohio, March 30, 1822, and lived there until 1833, when, with his parents, he moved to Vermilion county, Illinois, and settled near Georgetown. In 1836 they came to Iroquois county, and settled near Iroquois. He lived with his parents until he was twenty-four years of age, when he married Miss Hester Lambert, who was born in the same locality as he. Of their five children four are living: Brace, Ora, Flora and May; Frank died. Mr. Karr owns 190 acres in this county which he has earned. He has made many trips to Chicago, his first being from Vermilion county while he lived there. His parents, Adam and Rebecca (Galbreath) Karr, were natives of Pennsylvania, where they were married. They moved to Ohio at an early day, and came



*Benjamin Fry Sr.*



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here as stated. He was the first blacksmith in Iroquois. He died in 1852, and she in 1837.

James H. Karr, farmer and stock-raiser, Iroquois, was born in Brown county, Ohio, April 2, 1818, and lived there fifteen years. He received a limited common-school education, and remembers, among other classmates, U. S. Grant. He also worked in the tannery of Jesse R. Grant on Saturdays. They moved to Vermilion county, Illinois, and settled near Georgetown. In the spring of 1836 they came to Iroquois county, and settled on a farm which now adjoins Iroquois. He lived with his parents until he was thirty-two years of age. May 9, 1850, he married Miss Mary E. Pierce, who was born in Wood county, Ohio. After his marriage he began farming on his own account, and except two years' residence in Watseka has lived in this township since. They had seven children, three living: Ella, Jennie and Burt. He has held the office of sheriff of the county two years, also road commissioner and school director. He owns 270 acres in this county, which he has earned by his own labor and management.

Ezekiel Whiteman, retired farmer, Iroquois, was born in Greene county, Ohio, February 26, 1814, and lived there nearly twenty-three years. He then came to Illinois and settled on his present place, which is located on both sides of the state line, about due east of Iroquois. At first he lived on the Illinois side, but at present he resides in Indiana. January 1, 1837, he was married to Miss Margaret Grimsley, who was born in Page county, Virginia. He owns about 300 acres in this neighborhood which he has earned by his own labor. He came to Illinois by ox-team and built a 14×16 log cabin and lived in it sixteen years, clearing a farm out of the timber. Most of his land was bought in Danville, Illinois, and Logansport, Indiana, the latter being the office of the canal lands commissioner.

B. F. Fry, farmer and stock-raiser, Iroquois, is a native of Iroquois county, Illinois. He was born on his present place June 15, 1837, and has always lived on the same. November 18, 1851, he married Miss Carrie Pelton. After his marriage he began farming on his own account, renting part of his father's farm for two years. He then went into a partnership with his father, which continued until the death of his father, November 23, 1876. His mother died in 1847. His father was a native of Pennsylvania, and with his parents, moved to Coshoc-ton county, Ohio, when he was but three years of age. He moved to Indiana in the spring of 1830, and in the fall of the same year came to Iroquois county, Illinois. He worked for Gurdon S. Hubbard, and subsequently became the owner of the old Trading Post farm, and took a leading part in the early affairs of this neighborhood.

Amos O. Whiteman, farmer and stock-raiser, Iroquois, was born in Greene county, Ohio, August 9, 1819, and lived there twenty years. He visited Illinois, in this neighborhood, in 1838, but returned home the same winter. In 1839 he assisted his brother to move to Newton county, Indiana. He put in a crop there for his father and hired a man to attend it. His father came in the July following and harvested the crop, returning east on August 24 of the same year. On the 27th of the same month he died. In the spring of 1840 Mr. A. O. Whiteman came west to Iroquois county, Illinois, where he worked on a farm, and in April, 1841, he went back to Ohio, returning November, 1842. January 1, 1843, he settled on his present place, and has lived here since, except two years in old Middleport. He held the office of county surveyor from 1843 to 1847; justice of the peace from 1848 to 1852, and several terms since. He was then elected to fill the unexpired term of J. F. Wagner, county clerk. In 1847 he was commissioned by Gov. Ford as captain of Co. B, 9th Odd battalion of Illinois Militia, it being the first in the county. December 24, 1840, he married Miss Lydia Thomas, who was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, and died March 16, 1856. They had seven children, four living: Electa M., Louis K., Amos Lee, and Ora A. August 21, 1856, he married Margaret C. McCoy, who was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, and died June 16, 1862. They had four children, one living, Harmon M. His present wife was Miss Barbara A. Strickler, who was born in Sullivan county, Tennessee. They have four children: Grace, Horace M., Blanche, and Cyrus R. He owns 498 acres in this county and 53 in Indiana, which he has earned by his own labor and management.

Martin V. B. Fry, farmer and stock-raiser, Iroquois, is a native of Iroquois county, Illinois. He was born on his present place August 13, 1841, and lived here until 1862, when he enlisted in Co. E, 76th Ill. Vol., and was in the service until June, 1865, taking part in the battles of Vicksburg, Jackson, Mobile, and the other engagements of the regiment. After the war he returned home and pursued his business of farming,—he and his brother being in partnership. April 3, 1879, he married Miss Laura A. Light, of Newton county, Indiana. He made his home in the old homestead residence until its destruction by fire, since which time he has been living with his brother.

Leander Hogle, farmer, Sheldon, is a native of Concord township, Iroquois county, Illinois. He was born September 19, 1843, and has always made his home in this county. In 1861 he enlisted in the 51st Ill. Vol., and remained in service four years and twelve days. He was in the battles of Chickamagua, Mission Ridge, Franklin, Stone River, Atlanta campaign and the other battles of the regiment. November



6, 1867, he married Miss Melissa Bowen, who was born in this county. They have two children: Almedia and George. After his marriage he began farming his father's farm. His parents, Leonard and Susanna (Bookless) Hogle, are natives of New York and Ohio. They were married January 4, 1829. Of their eleven children five are living: William, Leander, Leonard, Jr., Margaret and Polly. All are married and live in this county, except Margaret, who lives at Earl Park, Indiana. He is living on the old homestead with his son. Mrs. Hogle died April 26, 1868.

John B. Crowl, farmer, Sheldon, was born in Xenia, Ohio, February 9, 1822, and lived there until 1839, when with his parents he moved west, and settled in Indiana, five miles east of Bunkum, Illinois, which was their post-office. At the age of twenty-one he moved over the line to Illinois, and engaged in farming, near Bunkum, on a farm that he bought of his father, and the following year he began improving his present place. December 29, 1845, he married Miss Mary Moore, who was born in Ohio, and came to Illinois at an early date. She died August 28, 1869. They had eight children, four living: George, Martha A., Ella and Frank F. He owns 363 acres in this county, which he has earned by his own labor and management. His parents, Joseph and Aletha (Bishop) Crowl, were natives of Maryland and Virginia. They moved to Ohio when young and married there. They came west as stated, and died in February, 1852, and October, 1872, respectively.

Abram Hogle, farmer and stock-raiser, Iroquois, was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, June 4, 1831, and lived there until 1845, when with his parents he came to Illinois and settled in Iroquois county, on his present place. He has served as school director since he became of age, and has been road commissioner for fifteen years. He also served as supervisor and justice of the peace. May 13, 1853, he married Miss Mary Strickler, who was born in Page county, Virginia. They had seven children, five living: Henry S., Herbert N., Carrie, Flora and Mina J. He owns 160 acres in this county which he has earned by his own labor. His parents, Michael and Rebecca (Noble) Hogle, were natives of New York and Virginia. They were married in Ohio, and came here as stated. He died in the spring of 1846. She is living here on the old homestead with her son.

Eli Hougland, farmer and stock-raiser, Sheldon, was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, November 8, 1838, and lived there about seven years, when with his parents he came west and settled in Iroquois county, Illinois. He lived with his parents nearly twenty-four years. January 16, 1862, he married Miss Adela Mantor, who was born in

Hamilton county, Ohio, and died May 19, 1863. In August, 1862, he enlisted in the 76th Ill. Vol., and remained in service until March, 1863. On his return from the army he farmed on his father's place, and also ran a threshing machine. In 1867 he went to Missouri and engaged in improving a farm that he had previously bought. In 1874 he came back to Illinois and settled on his father's farm, where he raised two crops. He then traded his Missouri farm for his present place, and moved on it. November 8, 1866, he married Miss Helen M. Barnes, who was born in Indiana. They have five children: Ira, Edgar, Charles, James O. and Silas. He owns nearly a quarter-section in this county, which he has earned by his own labor.

Marion Karr, farmer and stock-raiser, Iroquois, was born on his father's farm in Concord township, Iroquois county, Illinois, October 20, 1846, and lived there until August, 1862, when he enlisted in the 113th Ill. Inf., and remained in the service until July 1, 1865. He served one year as corporal, and also as orderly the greater part of the time. He was in the battles of Arkansas Post, Vicksburg, and most of the other engagements of the regiment. After the war he returned home, and December 23, 1866, he was married to Miss Ann Hill, who was born in England, and came to the United States at the age of six. They have six children, five living: Sidney, Ernest, William, Harry and Nellie. After his marriage he rented his father's farm one year. He then moved to his father-in-law's, and has managed his farm since. His wife's parents, John B. and Ann (Ellis) Hill were natives of England. She died November 8, 1861; present wife was Mrs. Jackson, formerly Miss Ann Gedling, a native of England. He settled here in 1860.

Jacob H. Murray, farmer and stock-raiser, Sheldon, is a native of Concord township, Iroquois county, Illinois. He was born November 6, 1848, on his father's farm, and has always lived at home. In 1871 he began working on his own account, farming the old homestead farm. March 31, 1878, he was married to Miss Sarah C. McCarty, who was born in Greene county, Ohio. They have one child, James S. His parents, Samuel and Elizabeth (Whiteman) Murray, were natives of Virginia. He came to this county in 1836. She also came at an early date. He died December 2, 1870. She is living on the old homestead. They were among the early settlers, and participated in the trials and privations of the early times.

J. W. Young, retired farmer, Iroquois, was born in Huntington county, New Jersey, June 6, 1817, and lived there seventeen years. He then moved to Coshocton county, Ohio, where he worked on a farm and clerked in a store until 1846. He then came to Iroquois and

worked on a farm and drove stock to Milwaukee and Chicago. He lived here about nine months, and then moved to Ohio, and in 1848 moved to Indiana, and in 1849 he again came to Iroquois county and moved into the old trading-house of Hubbard & Vasseur, and lived there four years, working the old Hubbard farm. He then came to his present place. November 9, 1848, he married Miss Sarah C. McCay, who was born in Fayette county, Pennsylvania, and died May 8, 1878. Of their five children two are living: Joseph McC. and Robert. Joseph married Miss Ella A. Karr, October 9, 1872. They have three children living: Edith, Blanche and Clyde. He and his brother, Robert, are farming the old homestead, their father making his home with them. He owns 302 acres in this county, which he has earned by his own labor. His capital, on coming here, was an old team and \$1.50. He has held no office in the county, except connected with the school and road.

Samuel Warrick, farmer and stock-raiser, Iroquois, was born in Warren county, Ohio, June 17, 1811, and lived there until 1839, when he moved to Fountain county, Indiana, following his trade of a carpenter, which he learned at the age of twenty-two. In 1853 he came to his present place, and has lived here since. He served as supervisor of this township in 1866, and has also served as road commissioner, school director and township trustee. He owns 840 acres in this county, which he has earned mostly by his own labor. In March, 1835, he married Miss Delila Jenkins, who was born in Warren county, Ohio, and died in 1846. Of their five children one is living, Absalom. In February, 1848, he married Miss Eleanor Clawson, who was born in Fountain county, Indiana, and died in November, 1869. They had seven children: Alice, John, Daniel, Winona, George, Samuel C. and Eleanor. In March, 1873, he married Mrs. Short (formerly Miss Lizzie Jenner), who was born in New York city. They have three children: Pearl, Nita and James M.

L. H. Hickman, farmer and stock-raiser, Sheldon, was born in Kent county, Delaware, May 10, 1821, and lived there until the fall of 1833. He then came to Warren county, Indiana, with his brother-in-law, his parents having died. In 1837 he went to live with his brother, who bought out his brother-in-law. April 21, 1842, he married Miss Elizabeth J. Chenowith, who was born in Warren county, Ohio. After his marriage he began working for himself, renting a farm several years, but subsequently buying a place. In 1854 he moved to Ash Grove, Iroquois county, Illinois, and has lived in this county since. He came to his present place in 1869. In 1872 he lost his wife. They had fourteen children, nine of whom are living: Charlotte Ann, Mary E.,



James F., Eliza E., Sarah J., Elmer C., George A., Martha C., and Francis R. June 3, 1873, he married Miss Polly L. Hogle, who was born in this county. They have three children: Arthur, Melissa and Susan. He owns 82 acres in this county. He has not been an office seeker, and has held no office except connected with the school and road.

J. H. McClain, M.D., physician, Iroquois, was born in Wayne county, Indiana, April 5, 1825, and the following October his parents moved to Fountain county in the same state. He lived at home nineteen years. January 11, 1844, he married Miss Catheron Henry, who was born in Scott county, West Virginia. After his marriage he engaged in farming. In 1846 he began studying medicine, and began the practice in Fountain county in 1856. In 1859 he came to Iroquois county, Illinois, and settled near Milford. In 1861 he came to Iroquois and practiced until 1864, when he moved to Kentland, Indiana. In 1868 he moved to Morocco, and in 1874 he came back to Iroquois, and has practiced here since. The doctor has been a member of the M. E. church since 1840. There are five children in his family: Hiram H., Sarah E., William H., Rebecca E., and Charles W.

Arthur T. Crozier, physician, Iroquois, is a native of Washington county, Arkansas. He was born on his father's farm August 9, 1833. During his infancy his father died. His mother married Mr. John Shirley, and Arthur T. lived with them until he was twenty-four years of age, when he began studying medicine under Drs. Stewart and Rose, of Jackson, Mississippi, and remained with them two years. He then attended school at Ann Arbor, Michigan, for ten months, and in 1857 he graduated from the Berkshire Medical College of Massachusetts. He then practiced seven years in Arkansas, and in 1864 he came to Iroquois county, and has practiced here since. In 1858 he married Miss Elizabeth Wright, of Arkansas. They had three children, two living: Minnie W. and Arthur M. From 1862 to 1864 the doctor had charge of the hospital at Washita, Indian territory.

Scott A. King, farmer and stock-raiser, Iroquois, was born in Rensselaer, Indiana, October 24, 1838, and lived there about one year. He then went to Parrish Grove, Indiana, and in 1840 came to Iroquois, and in 1841 went to New York, where he lived until 1863. He then came to Sheldon, Illinois, where, in 1864, he began wagon-making. He lived there until 1870, and then went to New York, and in 1874 he settled on his present place. In March, 1875, he was married to Miss Lorette M. Hill, who was born in New York. Mr. King owns 240 acres in this county, which he has earned mostly by his own labor. His parents, George and Harriet (Nichols) King, were natives of Gen-

esee county, New York, and were married there. They moved to Indiana in 1837.

S. K. Clarke, farmer and stock-raiser, Sheldon, is a native of Coshocton county, Ohio. He was born September 25, 1833, and lived with his parents until he was six years of age, when they died. He then lived with a relative about nine years. He worked on a farm until he was eighteen. October 13, 1851, he was married to Miss Susan Burrell, who was born in the same locality, and died in March, 1852. He continued working by the month until February 1, 1856, when he was married to Miss Mary Darling, who was born in Coshocton county, Ohio. He then rented a farm until 1867, when he came to Iroquois, Illinois, and rented a farm of Dr. Fowler for three years, during which time, July 5, 1870, he lost his wife. They had four children, three living: Celia, Susan and Franklin. October 15, 1872, he married Miss Louisa Baird, who was born in Coshocton county, Ohio. In the spring of 1876 he moved to his present place, which consists of 200 acres, which he has earned by his own labor and management. By his present marriage he had four children; three living: May Belle, Ira and Leroy.

Daniel Spittler, physician, Iroquois, was born in Page county, Virginia, July 2, 1843, and came to Newton county, Indiana, with his parents in 1845, where he lived until he was twenty-one years of age. He then read medicine two years at Sheldon with Dr. Barry, and afterward one year at Rensselaer, Indiana, with Dr. Loughridge. While with Dr. Barry he also attended lectures at Rush Medical College, Chicago, graduating there while with Dr. Loughridge, with whom he formed a partnership for one year. He then went to Kentland, and owing to the ill health of his wife, discontinued practice. In 1871 he came to Iroquois, and has lived here since. March 21, 1877, he married Miss Irene Strickler, his present wife. She was born in this county. They have one child, Ellen E.

W. B. Simonds, justice of the peace and insurance agent, was born in Hillsboro county, New Hampshire, December 3, 1841, and lived there until 1864, when he moved to Worcester, Massachusetts, and worked in a wire factory. In the winter of 1865 he moved to Manteno, Kankakee county, Illinois, and farmed. In 1871 he came to Iroquois county and farmed until 1873, when he moved to the village and has lived there since. He has held the office of town clerk a number of years, justice of the peace since 1873, and supervisor since 1878. December 29, 1870, he married Miss Ellen Young, who was born in Indiana. They had three children, one living, Clarence W. His parents, Asa and Emily (Knight) Simonds, were natives of New

Hampshire. They were married there and always lived there. Mr. Simonds served as representative of his district to the state legislature in 1861 and 1862, and is now living on the old homestead. His wife, Mrs. Simonds, died July 10, 1854.

J. B. Strickler, farmer and stock-raiser, Iroquois, is a native of Concord township. He was born March 28, 1841, and lived with his parents until November 10, 1872, when he married Miss Josie McKinstry, who was born in Boston, Massachusetts. After his marriage he moved to his present residence, and a year later, on completion of the improvement, his parents came and have lived with him since. He has four children: Henry E., Joseph, Edna and Arthur. In June, 1859, he went to Missouri and returned in November, 1860. He enlisted in the 155th Ill. Vol., and remained in service eight months. He was corporal in Company F, and was mustered out at Murfreesboro, Tennessee. He owns 303 acres of land in this county. His father, Henry, was born in Shenandoah county, Virginia, July 12, 1796. He married Miss Catharine Brubaker, May 13, 1819, in Hagerstown, Maryland. She was born in Virginia. They came to Iroquois county, Illinois, in 1835, and settled on the present farm and have lived here since. Of their fifteen children, nine are living.

W. H. McClain, druggist, Iroquois, is a native of Fountain county, Indiana. He was born April 6, 1850, and lived there until 1859, when with his parents he came to Iroquois county, Illinois, and settled near Milford. In 1861 they moved to Iroquois and in 1865 to Newton county, Indiana, where he lived until the spring of 1874, when he came to Iroquois and engaged in his present business, the firm being Warren & McClain; and in 1875 Mr. Warren sold out to Mr. McClain, who has since conducted the business. January 20, 1876, he married Miss Victoria Hawley, who was born in Kankakee county, Illinois. They have one child, W. H., Jr. In 1871 and 1872, while in Newton county, Indiana, he served as deputy sheriff.

M. W. Jones, dealer in general merchandise, Iroquois, is a native of Marshall county, Illinois. He was born October 9, 1850, and lived there twenty-five years. Twenty-two years of this time he spent on his father's farm, and the remaining three years clerked in a general merchandise store in the village of Henry, in his native county. He then moved to Iroquois county, Illinois, and engaged in farming near Gilman, and lived there four years, when he moved to Loda; and March 15, 1879, he came to Iroquois and engaged in his present business. December 13, 1875, he married Miss Hettie B. Culver, who was born in Henry, Illinois. They have one child, Alice M. The business of the new firm is by no means small, and the large stock of goods they



display is second to none in the county, invoicing as high as \$10,000. They occupy two store-rooms equal to 35×50, and have a large and increasing trade.

James H. Smith, dealer in general merchandise, Iroquois, was born in Cass county, Indiana, May 16, 1844. His father died when he was but two years of age, and he lived in the neighborhood until 1861, when he enlisted in the 46th reg. Ind. Inf. He was in service three years and three months. He was slightly wounded at the battle of Champion Hill. He also took part in the battles of Vicksburg, Port Gibson, Grand Gulf, and most of the engagements of the regiment. June 5, 1869, he married Miss Rebecca McClain, of Fountain county, Indiana. They had four children, three living: Samuel, Kitty and Leroy. In 1875 Mr. Smith came to Iroquois county, Illinois, and in 1877 he engaged in his present business, where he has constantly on hand all goods pertaining to a general store.

## DOUGLAS TOWNSHIP.

Douglas township received its name from the great senator, who was the originator of the plan, so far as official action was concerned, by which the grand prairie was made habitable. It has become popular to decry the system of land grants to railroads, and there is no doubt the system has been overdone, and has given rise to much official corruption; but it was only through some such plan as the one Senator Douglas urged through congress that this vast prairie region could be profitably farmed.

The township lies in the western part of the center of the county, and as originally constituted, and up to 1878, embraced twice the amount of territory that it does now. It now embraces a tier and a half of sections off the north end of townships 26 north, range 10 and 11 east of the 3d principal meridian, and 14 west of the 2d principal meridian, and two tiers of sections off the south end of town 27, same ranges, being nearly thirteen miles long east and west, by three and a half miles wide north and south. The division seems an inconvenient one, but is really one which accommodates the people very well. The Illinois Central railroad divides it exactly in the center, and the Toledo, Peoria & Warsaw railroad runs almost through the center from east to west. The Springfield division of the Illinois Central starts here, and for twenty years all the trains which belong to the Central road (passing over the Peoria road) from its main line to its Chicago branch have been transferred here.

Spring creek runs across the southeastern corner of the township, having on it a fine growth of timber. The surface of the land is generally level, with sufficient fall for good drainage. Early in its history the township suffered greatly rainy years in consequence of surface water, but the system of drainage which has been more recently perfected offers sufficient exit for the water in any ordinary year.

There were very few early settlers in this town. Mrs. Harwood, now a resident of Gilman, a sketch of whose pioneer life on Sugar creek and on Spring creek will be found in the sketch of Iroquois township, was one of the very first in the county, but did not reside in this township. Jacob O'Feather came from Indiana, and settled on section 25, near Spring creek, in 1836. He was a man of fair education, and was, according to Mr. Flesher's remembrance, the first one who taught school in the lower Spring creek settlement. The Darby family, who joined in that neighborhood, had land, if Mr. Kirby's recollection is correct, in both townships. David Wright lived in the same neighborhood in 1836. Henry Alexander, who came from Vermilion county in 1851, took up about half a section in section 1 (26-14), and remained there until his death, which occurred soon after his return from service in the army during the rebellion. His step-son, Mr. A. C. Cast, who resides at Crescent City, has the place yet, and has devoted a great deal of attention to raising fruit, having one of the finest apple orchards in the county. Mr. Alexander had a "breaking team," according to the parlance of the time, which was in those days four or five yoke of oxen. It was supposed at that time that the prairie could not be broken with a horse-team, and men who were handy with ox-teams were in great demand in the decade between 1850 and 1860 for breaking prairie. Along the timber, Daniel Wright, Elijah Barton, William Scott, Lewis Hunt, Mr. Graves, Thomas and S. R. Clinkinbeard settled; George and Edward Clark and Mr. McCormick lived near by. Mrs. Eoff lived on the east side of the creek. Martin Wright came in a few years later. Mr. Moyer lived south of the railroad, near Mr. Alexander's, and Mr. Noyes in the same vicinity. C. C. Wells and R. S. Johnson lived early on farms west of Gilman, and south of the railroad, and Lewis J. Bennett on a farm in the southwest corner of the township, and Mr. Baldwin near him. Mr. Parker lived north of the railroad, in the western part of the township, and Sherman Dayton lived near there, north of La Hogue. Andrew Bradner took up a farm in the same vicinity in the spring of 1857. Joseph Robinson lived just west of them, and Mr. Baldruff and John Kuhn near by. In the

spring of 1858, W. E. Knibloe and E. Silver, brothers-in-law, came to the farm now owned by John Shule, three miles northwest of Gilman. Two brothers Hartley lived west of Knibloe's that spring, and two brothers named Cook had farms farther east. Mr. Seary lived one mile northeast of Gilman. Peter, Joseph, Edwin and Abraham La Bounty lived farther east. There was fine hunting in those days, and in fact, as late as 1867 deer hunting was, though not common, an occasional sport. In the fall of that year three deer were driven out of the rush slough in Mr. Danforth's corn-field, and "the boys" followed them three days before they brought them down, and it is believed would have been after them yet rather than to have given up the job. Such a chance as that was not to be lightly esteemed.

The Sturgis farm, which is just southwest of Gilman, was one of the first brought into cultivation in this part of the township. It embraces a section of land, and a great deal of money has been expended on it by the owner to make it one of the best farms in the county. The buildings have been erected with a view to carrying on dairying. The brick milk-house is supplied with artesian water, which keeps the milk at nearly a uniform temperature winter and summer. Mr. Knibloe has had charge of the farm for several years, and is running a butter dairy of about forty cows, finding market for the product in Chicago. When the reader recalls the fact that during the summer months butter has the widest range of quotation of any known article of manufacture, ranging from four to forty cents, he will readily see what such dairymen as Mr. Knibloe have known all the while,—that for a good article there is always a good paying price.

The Gilman nursery was put into operation by Capt. W. H. Mann about 1866. For some years the hedge-plant branch of the business largely occupied his attention, while the stock in other branches of trade was becoming ready for the trade. To Mr. Mann is largely due the popularizing of hedging in this portion of the state. As the demand in that direction became well supplied, he gave his attention more to the tree raising. Bringing to his aid a thorough knowledge of the business, and great energy and care in the management of it, the Gilman nursery, with its branches at Chenoa and Fairbury, became one of the important interests of the county. It embraces 500 acres of land just east of Gilman.

Though Douglas has from the beginning been alive to the political strifes and partisan combats of the day, and has, by caucus and election, aided to shake the political bush, few of her citizens have



gathered the fruits of victory. Mr. George Wilson, one of her citizens, served this district in the state legislature, and after his very acceptable service removed to Hyde Park, where he now resides. Mr. David Kerr has served one term as county superintendent of schools, and is now serving a second term. He is a gentleman of excellent attainments, and has by general consent faithfully and energetically strengthened the cause of common-school education in the county, though continually hampered by limited regulations, which have restrained him from doing all that a superintendent in so large a county should do. The time allowed him has varied from fifty to one hundred days each year. Hon. Almen S. Palmer, long a resident of the township, and for many years its efficient supervisor, was, after his removal to Onarga, elected in 1872 to represent the sixteenth senatorial district, composed of Iroquois and Kankakee counties, in the state senate. He was a strong temperance man, never using either strong drink or tobacco in any form, and is still an honored resident of Onarga.

#### CITY OF GILMAN.

The town of Gilman, eighty-one miles from Chicago, was not laid out until the railroad, then known as the eastern extension of the Peoria and Oquaka road, was built to the crossing of the Illinois Central in 1857. Onarga had been the point of trade for this region of the country for some years, but the railroad junction here made it evident that this must be a point of considerable importance. E. E. Hundley, a resident of Virginia, owned the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 31, T. 27, 11 E. 3d principal meridian; John Chamberlain, the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 31, T. 27, R. 14 W. 2d principal meridian, and three Methodist ministers (Walter C. Palmer, John Dempster and Joseph Hartwell) had, through the good will of Mr. Cassady, of Danville, then a large land speculator in this part of the state, become joint proprietors of the forty acres next east of Chamberlain's, the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of this section. Judge Chamberlain took Joseph Thomas, of Onarga, as a partner, and all these proprietors gave Cruger, Secor & Co. (one of whose partners was Mr. Gilman), a half interest in their various lands, in consideration of their running their road to this point and making their town here, they having the right also to name the town. Mr. Thomas came on with Mr. Doolittle, and with the assistance of Mr. Edward Rumley, a young man whom Gilman will always hold in remembrance, surveyed out the town and began the work of making a city. By this Mr. Rumley became one of the fathers of this place, and has continued, after all the

others have either passed away or have long since disposed of their interests here, to be one of the most active in promoting all that is of permanent interest to the place, or encourage a healthy public sentiment. The sudden death of Mr. Thomas, who was in charge of the interests of the different proprietors, was a severe blow to the vital interests of Gilman, and with the financial storm which struck the country at about the time the town was laid out, retarded for nearly ten years the active growth of the new town. Cruger, Secor & Co. gave a trust-deed to Octave Chanute, the engineer of the Peoria road, of all their interest, and he soon after sold the property on the trust, and Col. A. J. Cropsey, then of Fairbury, but more recently of Lincoln, Nebraska, became the purchaser, but soon after sold his interest to Chanute. Mr. Cassady had entered all of this eastern section 31 but that forty which Chamberlain owned. He was a man of large business enterprises, and many are the stories, which are well remembered by old residents of this and Vermilion counties, in regard to his smartness in land speculations, some of which probably were not strictly true; but this is remembered of him, that he always remembered the clergy with kindness. It was this trait which induced him to give the three ministers above alluded to, who were poor as the ordinary run of their co-laborers in that ministry, a deed of that forty acres at little if anything beyond what it cost him. To follow the history of the proprietary interests of Gilman further: Cyrus R. Brown took an assignment of the interest of Mr. Thomas just previous to his (Thomas') death, and continued to act in the capacity of proprietor until 1864, when Dr. Wenger purchased the entire interests of Chamberlain & Brown. In 1865 Dr. Wenger and E. S. Caughey purchased all of Chanute's interest up to Fifth street, and the following year A. W. Beery purchased the remainder of Chanute's interest. Mr. Hundley sold his interest to Mr. Feagin, taking a mortgage to secure the deferred payments, and returned to Virginia about the breaking out of armed rebellion, and, as Gen. Lane would say, "in common with the rest of the South, *seseshed*." He neglected to put his mortgage on record, a fact which seems to have been unknown to the mortgagor, so that there appeared to be no way to convey title of the lots in question except to permit them to be sold for taxes and then perfect the title under the revenue laws. After the cruel war was over, Mr. Hundley came back here and found for the first time that his mortgage was not on record, but hunted around and found it, and proceeded to foreclose with all that that word implies. There were sundry additions of out-lots around the original town. About 1867 or 1868,

Messrs. Dent, Mosher and Baker laid out the N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 6 (26-14); Scott's addition is west of the original town; Mann's 1st, 2d and 3d additions are east and southeast of the town; Compton's southwest. The original town-plat embraced seventy-seven blocks, and all lay north of the Peoria railroad.

W. P. Gardner came here from Pennsylvania in the fall of 1857, and had to wait several days for the survey to be made before he could secure lots to build on. There was no house here then but the section house. There was a shanty half a mile west where the hands who were working on the railroad were boarded. Matthew Lyons was proprietor of the boarding house. C. C. Wells was living on the Sturgis farm, and was entertaining a lot of boarders. Thither Mr. Gardner went to secure the necessaries for healthy digestion, and found that Mrs. Wells was sick, and that the two hired girls had been that day called home by sickness in their respective families. Mr. Wells submitted the question to the good judgment of Mr. Gardner, whether he could, under the existing circumstances, contract to take any more boarders. Gardner, with the proverbial characteristic of a "Philadelphia lawyer," calculated that it could not be done. By the first of September the survey had been completed, and Mr. Gardner commenced to build the first residence in Gilman, the one now occupied by Dr. Wenger. He got it completed, and on the first of January went east to bring his family here, arriving with them on the twentieth. The same fall, James Wright built the house which Mr. Cross lives in. Daniel Dugan built the house north of Mr. Gardner's, and Matthew Lynch built the one just opposite the old hotel, which was burned last fall. The three brothers Esty (George, Moses and Warren E.), built the hotel that same fall. It was a magnificent building for the time, 35x44, three stories and basement, and must have cost at least \$4,000. The upper story was, following the custom of the times, a ball-room, and thither, on the twenty-second of February, all the elite of the various grand prairie settlements, at least those who were not under good religious restraint, went to celebrate the birthday of the Father of his Country, and inaugurate the grand hotel by a grand ball. The Esty boys were at that time all unmarried, and they secured the services of Mr. and Mrs. Cross to manage their hotel. The ball was a great success, but "certain fellows of the baser sort" considered the affair rather "high toned," and being filled with something rather stronger than new wine, made night hideous outside, with a determination to flax out the ladies, who were engaged in frivolous amusement. There was no system of police in Gilman at that time, and the Estys were not



very forehanded in physical traits, but they had for a backer one Lawrence, who was the builder of the house, and as such undertook to defend it. He secured a "shillalah," which brought down one of the enemy every swing right and left. Victory rested with the defenders, and on went the dance. The hotel was a great success for a time. Trains from the west ran up on the Y just in front of it, and out-going trains made up at its door. Later the hotels at the crossing of the two roads were built, and this fell into disuse. Its windows are now boarded up, and its days as a hotel are numbered.

The first train over the Peoria road, from Gilman, was made up here to run to the state fair in Peoria, the latter part of September, 1857. Mr. Thomas had interested the people along down the Illinois Central railroad in this route. They came here at an early hour, and stood out on the prairie in the piercing west wind three hours waiting for the train, and many were the curses loud and deep from those who had been induced to take the Gilman route.

John Mulvaney built his house early in 1858; and in May of the same year the Roman Catholic church was commenced. The frame was blown down in the terrible tornado which swept over this part of the country, May 13. This storm was the most severe ever known in this vicinity. It swept across the state from west to east, blowing down buildings, unroofing houses, uprooting trees and doing great havoc.

The Peoria and Oquaka railroad was extended east during the next two years, and then became known as the Peoria & Logansport, and afterwards, when it was extended to the Mississippi, became known as the Toledo, Peoria & Warsaw. In 1880 it was sold out, and again the name was changed. The Gilman, Clinton & Springfield road was built in 1870 and 1871, largely by the system of local aid voted by townships along the line. In 1868 it became a part of the Illinois Central, and is known as the Springfield division.

During 1858 a good many houses and buildings were put up, and business was fairly active, but the depression in business, followed closely by the war, kept back the growth, and Gilman was almost at a stand for several years.

#### CHURCHES.

The first service of the Roman Catholics was held in the railroad house, in December, 1857. The work on the railroad had called together a number of families of that faith, and Father Lambert came here to look after their welfare, and urge on them the importance of providing a house of worship. There were present at the first meet-

ing, John Mulvaney, Daniel Dugan, Patrick Dobbins, John Gleason, Michael Egan, Matthew Lynch, James Matthews, Thomas Querk, Patrick Dorsey and Thomas Soran, and members of the families of most of them. The first five are still residing here. At that meeting it was determined to raise a subscription for a church, and \$150 was pledged that day, those giving pledging more when the building should be completed. Messrs. Thomas & Chamberlain donated a lot to build on, and the railroad companies granted liberal assistance. Citizens of all denominations here and at Onarga gave liberally of their means, and May 1 work was commenced on the first house of worship in Gilman. The frame was up and was destroyed by the tornado, May 13. The work was again commenced, and the building was completed in 1869. The building was 24×40, and cost about \$2,000. The mission was in charge of the resident priest at Champaign at first, and afterward services were conducted by the resident priests at L'Erable: Fathers Buzard, Coute, Vanderpool and Perner. In 1870 Father Fanning, of Fairbury, had charge of this mission, and found it necessary to build a new church, owing to the crowded condition of the congregation. The old house was sold to Mr. D. Dailey, and a new frame house built, 40×80, at a cost of \$6,000. This fine edifice was burned, October, 1878. It was supposed to have been fired by an incendiary. The present beautiful brick edifice was begun in three weeks after the other was burned, services being in the mean time conducted in Wenger's hall. The church is incomplete, and has cost \$3,500. Father Bloome was the first resident priest, having charge also of the missions at Crescent and Loda, in addition to the work here. Father Van Schwadler followed him. The present priest is Father McGar. The priest's residence was purchased several years since. About 120 families worship here.

The Presbyterian church was organized May 9, 1858, by a committee of the Peoria presbytery. The original members were: C. C. Wells and wife, R. S. Johnson, Miss Mary Johnson, Sherman Dayton, Mrs. R. L. Beyea, Mrs. P. A. M. Dickerson, J. A. Cultra, E. W. Burrows and Mrs. Ada Cross. C. C. Wells was elected elder. In 1860 R. S. Johnson and Sherman Dayton were elected elders. Meetings were held occasionally in the school-house. Rev. Isaac B. Moore was pastor in 1860, J. A. E. Simpson in 1863, P. D. Young in 1868, S. V. McKee in 1872 for four years. Rev. Mr. Magner supplied the church half a day each Sabbath in 1877, and Mr. Fahs, of the seminary, a portion of the year 1878. The present pastor, Rev. M. Noer, commenced his labors December, 1878. In 1866 R.

S. Johnson, A. Dickerson and Dr. E. Wenger were chosen trustees, and under their administration the present church was built. It is  $32 \times 46$ , and cost about \$1,500. The present membership is forty-seven. The first Sabbath school was held a portion of the time in W. B. Flagg's blacksmith shop, and a portion of the time in the depot. C. C. Wells, R. S. Johnson and S. Dayton were interested in carrying on the work. David Kerr acted as superintendent for one year, about 1870, and Mr. Joseph Armstrong one year, Rev. Mr. McKee during the time of his pastorate, and Mr. A. Crooks since that time, for four years. These gentlemen, together with Mr. Harris, Thomas A. Crooks, Mrs. Armstrong, Mrs. Snyder, Mrs. West and Miss Jennie Kerr, have been active in Sabbath school work. The school averages about seventy-five.

There were, as in all places, members of the Methodist persuasion here, and meetings were irregularly held for some years before the appointment of Mr. Havermale to this circuit in 1869. Rev. Mr. Stubbles is believed to have been the earliest preacher here, and was followed by Rev. Messrs. Hill and Gray. Rev. George R. Palmer also preached, but the society was in an unorganized condition until Mr. Havermale's appointment. The first services were held in the school-house near Mr. Peck's, and later in Mann's hall. March 19, 1872, A. J. Alexander, James Tobias, F. P. Van Valkenburg, J. H. Allen and A. J. Ross were elected trustees, and May 13, W. M. Scott, J. P. Bassett and H. A. McCaughy were added to the board of trustees, and they proceeded to build the church. It is brick,  $40 \times 70$ , two stories, and yet unfinished in the upper story. In 1877 the roof was partially blown off during a severe gale, but was replaced with no damage to the walls. The building cost about \$8,000. Each attempt made to dedicate the building has been interfered with by severe storms on the day appointed. Rev. M. F. Havermale was appointed to this charge in 1869, and served here three years; Rev. J. I. Webb in 1872, one year; Rev. G. W. Burns in 1873, two years; Rev. C. O. McCulloch in 1875, three years; Rev. F. H. Cumming in 1878, one year. Rev. M. C. Eignus is the present preacher. The church numbers about eighty members. Mr. Parsons and wife and Miss Walker collected the children together in a Sabbath school in Mr. Feagin's house as early as 1858. For a time and down probably to about 1869, the school was conducted irregularly. Sometimes it was known as the Mission school, under the superintendency of H. C. Bushnell; but about that date took the distinctive name of the Methodist school. James Tobias, H. Houghton and Dr. Van Valkenburg served successively as superin-



tendent. D. L. Parker, J. H. Allen, William Scott, Miss Scott, Mrs. George Leaf and Mrs. J. R. Capron have aided actively in the work. Isaac Bailey is the present superintendent; the membership is 130, with an average attendance of about 110.

The Lutheran church was organized in 1867, by the election of Charles Laver, Fred. Laub and Charles Meyer, trustees. Rev. Mr. Johnson of Danforth, preached here two years, and Rev. Mr. Hunzinger and Mr. Hartman of Ash Grove, served the church for a while. The edifice was erected in 1873. It is 24×46, with spire, and cost \$1,800. Rev. Robert Falke served the church for a year and a half, and Rev. Carl Schuchard is the present pastor. In addition to those above named, Albert Olms, Mr. Rosenburg, Conrad Scharpf and John Klaefft have served as trustees. The church numbers about 40. A Sabbath school has been maintained for ten years, the preacher usually acting as leader. Charles Meyer is superintendent. The average attendance is from 50 to 70.

The Evangelical church was organized about 1865. The first preaching services were held in a school-house at John Shule's farm. Afterward services were held in Wenger's hall and at other places in town. This is known as Gilman circuit, and embraces appointments at Danforth, Wilson's Settlement and Ash Grove. It formerly embraced Chatsworth and Roberts. The church was built in 1875, is 24×46, and cost about \$3,000. Mr. John Shule was the largest contributor to the cause. The church here numbers 38. Rev. Mr. Musselmann, Mr. Knight, Mr. Wagner, Mr. Eigelout, John Cutts, John Webner, Mr. Wingert and Mr. Lintner have in turn ministered to this people. Louis Eppelsheimer is superintendent of the Sabbath school.

The Baptist church was organized in 1871 with 15 members. Rev. J. M. Whitehead of Kankakee was present to aid by his advice and counsel. The church has not had regular pastors, and has no church edifice. Elder Palmer, Elder Knapp and Elder Jordan have preached here. Rev. Mr. Barker of Watseka preached here a portion of the time during the year 1868, and Elder Beebe of Chatsworth is supplying the pulpit in the same way this year. The church now numbers 18 members. G. N. Hawley is clerk, and W. P. Gardner has been chosen since its organization. Meetings are held regularly on the Sabbath in Mann's hall, and prayer and missionary meetings in the same place Friday evenings. Sabbath school has been maintained irregularly. H. C. Bushnell was one of the first promoters of the cause, and was early the superintendent. Mr. Hawley is the present superintendent.

## SOCIETIES.

Gilman Lodge, A.F. and A.M., was instituted October 6, 1868, with the following charter members: A. J. Alexander, W.M.; Elias Wenger, S.W.; F. P. Van Valkenburg, J.W.; James Hamilton, J. D. Leland, M. J. Henry, T. J. Laney, Albert Dickerson, B. F. Brown, Isaac Hills, I. B. Calder, L. G. Remer, George C. Coxshall, John C. Knecht and W. H. Otis, Secretary. J. S. Forsythe acted as master one year, and Dr. Wenger the remainder of the time. He also built the lodge and furnished it, giving the rent free the first year. It was dedicated by the late William Rounsville. The lodge meets the second and fourth Saturdays in each month. The present officers are: E. Wenger, W.M.; O. R. Morey, S.W.; R. H. Miller, J.W.; F. G. Schmedt, S.D.; Charles Meyer, secretary; W. H. Cassady, treasurer; Thomas Fitton, tiler.

The Gilman Grove, No. 50, of the Ancient Order of Druids, was organized January 20, 1875, with the following charter members and original officers: Albert Olms, A.A.; Paul Meyer, W.A.; H. Barkmeyer, secretary; Anton Nagel, warden; Joseph Schalkle, treasurer; and Guenther Rosenburg. It numbers twenty-one, and meets in Masonic Hall Tuesday nights. The family of each member dying receives from its fund \$500. It is in a flourishing condition. The present officers are: J. Schalkle, A.A.; George Althans, W.A.; C. Layer, secretary; R. Sheable, treasurer; John Shule, warden.

Gilman Lodge, No. 648, I.O.O.F., was instituted November 12, 1877, with the following charter members and original officers: F. Macdonald, N.G.; Geddes Simmons, V.G.; J. R. Flynn, secretary; Charles Meyer, treasurer; R. N. Foster, lodge deputy; Lewis Anson, Julius Kahle, E. Skeels, J. Schalkle, and three others. The lodge numbers forty-two, and meets Monday evenings. Dr. J. W. Snyder served one year as N.G. The present officers are: Charles Meyer, N.G.; C. C. Stone, V.G.; John Flynn, treasurer; F. Macdonald, secretary; R. N. Foster, deputy.

Star Lodge, No. 202, I.O.G.T., was instituted by G.W.C.T. Uriah Copp, Jr., November 23, 1877, with fifty-two charter members, and with the following officers: Ed Rumley, W.C.T.; Mrs. Rumley, W.V.T.; A. J. De Long, secretary; J. A. Wilcox, financial secretary; James Rugg, treasurer; F. Wilcox, marshal; Jennie Kerr, guard; J. J. Rugg, sentinel; Mrs. F. Wilcox, deputy marshal; Kate Lameraux, assistant secretary; Mrs. A. J. De Long, R. H. supporter; Mrs. J. A. Wilcox, L. H. supporter; S. B. Howard, chaplain. The lodge numbers eighty-eight members, and is a live and energetic institution, doing good service in behalf of temperance. The present officers are:

G. W. Shute, P.W.C.T.; E. Rumley, W.C.T.; Mrs. J. A. Wilcox, W.V.T.; Charles S. Cavis, secretary; H. Johnson, financial secretary; Miss Lizzie Mann, treasurer, L. Edmuns, marshal; Miss Gertie Bucklin, deputy marshal; Miss Jennie Cassady, guard; W. A. Mann, sentinel; Miss Belle Hudson, assistant secretary; Mrs. Fowler, R. H. supporter; Mrs. W. H. Mann, L. H. supporter; G. N. Hawley, chaplain.

The Gilman Library Association was organized February 8, 1870. It is organized under the laws of the state as a joint-stock association, the stock being 100 shares at a par value of \$10 each. The first officers were D. L. Parker, president; A. Dickerson and H. C. Bushnell, vice-presidents; L. A. Chase, secretary; Ed Rumley, librarian; Dr. E. Wenger, treasurer; W. H. Mann, S. S. Cone and Isaac Beyea, directors. The interest in the society is kept up and its funds improved by entertainments of different kinds, lectures, plays by home talent, etc. On the 22d of February each year the society has its annual dinner, which is an enjoyable feature. No officer receives any salary but the librarian. The association owns its building, and 1,256 volumes, embracing many of the standard works in all the departments of literature, and is out of debt. The shares of stock are now worth \$30. Non-stockholders are charged \$2 per annum for the use of the books. The present officers are: Mrs. W. H. Mann, president; Mrs. Fannie Potter, secretary and librarian; George H. Potter, treasurer.

The first school building was put up by Isaac Beyea, two blocks north of Wenger's Block, in 1860. Previous to this, school was held in a building which stood north of where Harwood lives. The school-house was 22×48, and was used until 1869, when it was moved to the center of town, and is occupied by S. V. West as a drug store. In 1869 the main part of the present school-house was built. It is 35×75, two stories high. The west wing was built in 1879, 30×40, two stories. The school is graded to four departments, primary, second primary, intermediate and senior, and is in charge of Mr. E. Brumaglin, a graduate of the Albany (New York) High School, with Miss Annie R. Brumback in charge of the intermediate, Miss Phillips of the second primary, and Miss Mattie Beach, primary. The average attendance is 275. Misses Crooks, De Land and Mosher are the directors. The "Model" series of arithmetics are used; independent readers, Montieth's geographies, and Green's grammars.

#### CITY ORGANIZATION.

Gilman was incorporated as a town in 1867. At the first election the following officers were elected: T. Spalding, president; Dr. E. Wenger, D. Harwood, Mr. Layer and J. Mulvaney, trustees; Joseph



Armstrong, clerk; E. Wenger, treasurer. The limits, as fixed by the incorporating act, included the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  and S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 31 (27-14), the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 31 (27-11), and the N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 6 (26-14), and permission was given the trustees to extend the limits a half mile each way; afterward the limits were enlarged by being extended half a mile each way. This organization was under a special charter, as was the custom before the act of 1872 took effect. Under the latter, city organization was effected, March 11, 1874, by the election of Thomas Spalding, mayor; C. Howard, E. Wenger, J. D. Watkins, G. H. Potter, Isaac Beyea and L. W. Kennedy, aldermen; J. Armstrong, clerk; S. S. Cone, attorney. These officers served until the regular election under the general act, April 21, when the following were elected: J. D. Watkins, mayor; T. Spalding, treasurer; S. S. Cone, attorney; J. Armstrong, clerk. Aldermen: first ward, A. W. Beery, Thomas Fitten; second ward, John Mulvaney, L. L. Reams; third ward, J. H. Allen, L. W. Kennedy. At present writing the officers are: C. P. Kinney, mayor; J. Armstrong, clerk; D. L. Parker, treasurer; J. D. LeLand, attorney; W. M. Scott, J. Mulvaney and A. J. DeLong, aldermen.

License for the sale of strong drink has been the rule in the city until the present year, i.e. under the election of 1879, when the anti-license policy prevailed. License has usually been \$300 per annum. The city's protection against fire consists of six Babcock extinguishers and an efficient hook and ladder company.

The cemetery is owned by the city. It consisted of ten acres which was laid out into eight blocks, containing in all about 600 lots. A portion of the ground was transferred to the Catholic church, as under the rule and custom of that faith, grounds for burial are sacred to the use of their own people, and are under the charge of the church. Considerable has been done in the way of beautifying the grounds, by the authorities and by individual purchasers, making the grounds pleasant, according to the taste of the modern idea in regard to places of burial, which marks the higher civilization of the age.

#### NEWSPAPERS.

The first newspaper established in Gilman was the "Journal," a local six-column folio, by Matthias Custer, in 1868. It was independent in politics, and fairly represented the local interests of the young town. Its publication continued two years.

On May 21, 1870, Mr. Ed. Rumley began the publication of the "Gilman Star," which has brightly twinkled during ten years of prosperous existence. Mr. Rumley had acquired, by a considerable experi-

ence in newspaper publishing an education, which, coupled with a native aptitude in that line, peculiarly fitted him for managing a local paper. As early as 1864 he had published the "Advertiser" at Onarga, which in 1865 was changed to the "Review." He had also published the "Fruit Grower," a publication which, as its name indicated, was devoted to the important fruit interests of this locality. The "Star" was started as a six-column folio, and has grown into a triple sheet, or twelve pages, now the largest paper in this part of the state. It has always been successful financially, independent in politics, but radically in earnest as an advocate of temperance, and has a large circulation all over the county. Patronage was scant at first. The first number contained advertisements of J. H. Allen, dealer in dry-goods; D. L. Parker & Co. and J. Wilson & Son, bankers; W. H. Mann & Co., nursery; A. Dickerson, insurance; H. Bushnell & Son, lumber, and a flaming advertisement of Cyrus Shinn, the redoubtable real-estate and excursion agent. A single number of the "Star" lately has contained thirty columns of advertisements.

Mr. D. Harwood was the first to enter into any business enterprise in Gilman, and Mr. D. L. Parker was the first to open a full stock of goods, in the store now occupied by Charles Layer, in the spring of 1858. It was supposed at first that business would not be drawn to the railroad crossing, and it seemed more comfortable to be away from the smoke and noise of trains. Mr. Parker continued to carry on the mercantile business until 1861, when he went into the railroad office for six years, after which he engaged in banking business. J. F. Wright engaged in mercantile business the same year. Isaac Beyea was one of the first here. He lived just north of the town and carried on his trade, that of mason, and did his full share to build up the town. He divided the time between the pressing duties of his vocation and the more exciting duties of the chase. It was beautiful hunting here for at least ten years after the railroad was built, and Beyea's education, on the hillsides of southern New York fitted him for the joys of the chase. He has, however, steadied down and become a justice of the peace. It is supposed to require a good hunter to make an acceptable peace officer. Jonathan, David and Aaron Wright were early here, carrying on the carpenter trade. Matthew Lynch opened the saloon business early in 1858. The town is the most diffusely scattered, probably, of any town of like population in the state. It would be very difficult to tell which is the center of the town. Dr. Wenger's endeavor to centralize the business on the high ground west of the railroad was a worthy one, and the buildings he put up there would necessarily have tended to that result, but other interests were

drawing in other directions. With railroad facilities of the very best and a fair start in manufacturing, Gilman can hardly fail to draw to it the men of capital and enterprise, together with the energetic and liberal men who have her interests in charge, to make it a point of commercial and business importance.

An attempt was made by the citizens to call the town Douglas, but the railroad seems to have got the start in naming, and would not consent to change. It seems strange in this particular case that there was an unwillingness to make the change, for if there is any honor in having a town named after a man whose public acts have been devoted to the interests of a great public enterprise, no one was more entitled to such remembrance than Stephen A. Douglas, whose enterprise, skill and great tact originated and carried through congress the wise and statesman-like measure, which made it possible to reduce this grand prairie from wilderness to magnificent farms and thriving cities.

Warren E. Esty was the first postmaster; after him, D. L. Parker, Oliver Clark and Albert Dickerson, and W. H. Mann is the present one.

The brick block west of the railroad, known as Wenger's Block, was built by Dr. E. Wenger and A. W. Beery in 1870. It includes six two-story and basement brick stores, four of which were built by the former and two by the latter. The block is 129 feet long and 70 feet deep, and cost \$18,000. Dent & Mosher built the two stores south of the railroad in 1867. A joint-stock company, composed of men who had business interests in that portion of the town, built the two-story brick store south of the railroad in 1870. D. L. Parker built the one-story brick block just north of the railroad, occupied by the bank and stores, and the building where the post-office is, in 1872. The Crooks Brothers built the one-story and basement brick store occupied by them in 1878. It is a very neat one, 25×85, and cost about \$3,000. E. H. David & Son built the planing-mill in 1871, and run it as such four years, when they renewed the machinery and put in three runs of stone for a grist-mill. They do custom work only. It cost about \$3,500. Mr. C. Cross built the small custom mill west of the railroad in 1877.

La Hogne is a station on the Peoria road, four miles west of Gilman, where considerable business is done in buying and shipping corn. Miles Brothers of Peoria, Durham & Doe of Onarga, and G. C. Beckwith are engaged in buying grain. John Zea has a store and is postmaster. The hay business at La Hogue is an important one. The ground here is well adapted to raising grass, and large quantities are cut and pressed for the Peoria market. The work is done by the



recently introduced steam-power press. The population of Douglas, which then included Danforth, in 1870 was: native whites, 1,801; foreign-born, 598; total, 2,399.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

David C. Wright (deceased), was one of the first settlers of this part of Iroquois county. He was born in Green county, Pennsylvania, and was a soldier of the war of 1812, belonging to the Light Horse Cavalry. He was married, about 1818 or 1819, to Ede McCowen, who was born in Green county, Pennsylvania, in 1801. Her father, James McCowen, was a soldier of the revolutionary war. Mrs. Wright is one of a family of eleven children; she is the only one living of the family. In about 1829, David C. Wright, with his wife and six children started for the Far West, and arrived in Terre Haute, Indiana, where they remained about two or three years. From there they came to Iroquois county, and located on a farm four miles from Gilman, on Spring creek. They were among the first families in this part of the county. He engaged in farming. David C. Wright died October 27, 1852, and thus passed away one of the old and honored settlers of Iroquois county. After the death of Mr. Wright, Mrs. Wright moved to Gilman, where she has remained ever since. They had eleven children. One son, Jonathan Wright, was in the late war and did good service.

Matthew Lynch (deceased), was one of the first settlers of Gilman. He was born in Ireland, and emigrated to America with his brothers and sisters when he was very young. His mother and father both died in Ireland before they started for America. Mr. Lynch came direct west to Illinois, and first located in Naperville, and from there he went to St. Charles, and in 1850 was married to Margaret C. Ponsevy, who was born in Ireland, and came to America when young. From St. Charles, Mr. Lynch and wife moved to Chicago, where they remained about five years. From there they moved to Galesburg, where they remained until 1847. During his residence in Illinois Mr. Lynch was a railroad engineer. He engineered on the Galena, Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, and Toledo, Peoria & Warsaw railroads, and was known as a good engineer, always performing his duty faithfully. In 1847 Mr. Lynch and wife moved to Gilman, and there were but two houses in the place. The first house was occupied by Matthew Lyon, and the other, a shanty, was used as a section house, consequently Mr. Lynch built the third house in Gilman, which stood in the rear of the Park Hotel. Their house was used as a hotel, and was known as the Railroad House. Matthew Lynch took an active part in organizing the Catholic church, and the first meetings of this church were held at his

house. He was a faithful member of the church, and a friend to the schools of Gilman. He was made school director. Matthew Lynch died June 9, 1870, at thirty-nine years of age, and thus passed away one of the old and highly respected citizens of Gilman, leaving a wife to mourn his loss. Mrs. Lynch was married to her present husband, Christopher Ennis, July 31, 1876, by the Rev. Father Fanning. Mr. Ennis was born in Ireland. Some twenty-four years ago he was employed with the Toledo, Peoria & Warsaw railroad as a section-boss. From that he gradually built his way up, and to-day is road-master of the Toledo, Peoria & Warsaw railroad. He is a man that is well thought of from one end of the road to the other.

D. L. Parker, banker, Gilman, was born in Orleans county, New York, April 29, 1836. He remained a resident of his native county until he was about fifteen years of age, when he came west to Illinois and located in Chicago. Here his father, Warren Parker, was engaged in running an omnibus line in Chicago. Mr. Parker, the subject of this sketch, was engaged in the omnibus business with his father, and remained a resident of Chicago about five years. He then came to Iroquois county and was farming one year near Gilman, and in 1857 moved to Gilman, where he has been a resident ever since. He entered the real-estate business, and the general merchandise business, he being the first grocer and general merchant of Gilman. From that he was employed by the railroads as general agent at Gilman. In 1869 he entered the banking business, the firm being D. L. Parker & Co. In 1873 he formed a partnership with J. H. Allen, the firm becoming Parker & Allen.

William P. Gardner is "the pioneer furniture man" and one of the first settlers of Gilman. He was born in New London county, Vermont, December 27, 1812, and is the son of Isaac Gardner, who was a soldier in the revolutionary war, and who was born on the same ground on which the subject of this sketch was born. Mr. Gardner's ancestors were among the Mayflower pilgrims. Mr. Gardner was raised on the farm, where he remained until he was about twenty-four years of age, with the exception of two years when he was a resident of New York. In 1836 he was married to Sarah E. James, of Rhode Island, and they moved to Pennsylvania and located in Gibson, Susquehanna county. He engaged in farming and remained there until 1857, when he came west to Illinois and located in Gilman. He commenced the erection of his residence, the first in Gilman, which is now owned and occupied by Dr. E. Wenger. In 1858 Mr. Gardner moved his family to Gilman, and engaged in farming. In 1865 he moved to Kankakee county, Illinois, and remained until 1870, when he returned to Gilman, where

he has been a resident ever since. In 1872 he embarked in the furniture and undertaking business. This business he has gradually built up until to-day he is doing a leading business. He occupies two buildings, one size 18×40 feet and one 20×36 feet. He keeps constantly on hand a full line of goods. Mr. Gardner has held the office of constable of Gilman for four years with honor and credit. He had one son in the late war. Bur Gardner was a soldier in the 113th Ill. Vol. He was a brave soldier and did good duty, and was honorably mustered out on account of sickness. Mr. Gardner lost his first wife. She died in 1872 and was buried in the Gilman cemetery. He subsequently married Mrs. Hunt. Mr. Gardner is a member of the Baptist church, having been a member of this church since he was eighteen years of age.

William E. Knibloe, farmer, Gilman, was born in the town of Sharon, Connecticut, February 17, 1820. His parents, soon after his birth, removed to Dutchess county, New York, where he learned the trade of cabinet-maker. In April, 1842, he married Miss Mary A. Dakin, of North East, who was born December 22, 1821. In 1843 Mr. Knibloe removed with his family to Chicago, where he continued to follow his trade until 1858, when he removed to Douglas township, Iroquois county, and commenced farming. This business he has since successfully prosecuted. They have had three children, two of them now living. The daughter, Harriet, is married and living in Gilman. The son, Walter E., is teaching in the public schools of Champaign. The family are directly descended from a distinguished Scotch ancestry, some of whom were employed in translating King James' version of the Bible, and one of whom assisted in founding Yale College. Mrs. Knibloe is a member of the M. E. church.

Isaac Beyea, justice of the peace, is one of the few original settlers of Gilman. He was born January 25, 1822, in Orange county, New York, and is the son of Peter Beyea, who was a soldier of the war of 1812. He learned the trade of stone mason in Orange County, New York. In 1857 he started for Illinois, and located in Kaneville, Kane county, where he remained until 1859. He came to Gilman in February of the same year. The first work he did at his trade was in 1859, in building the foundation for a business block, which was the first stone or brick foundation built in Gilman. This house was used for a grocery store, and was the first regular grocery store in Gilman. It is now owned and occupied by Mr. Charles Layer. Since Mr. Beyea has been a resident of Gilman he has been engaged in building some of the leading business blocks in Gilman. He helped to build the Wenger Block, and erected the first school-house in Gilman, which at



that time was located three blocks north of the Wenger Block. This school-house is now used as a drug store, know as the City Drug Store. Mr. Beyea states that the first plaster is still on the ceiling. He helped to build the present M. E. church, and erected the brick building now occupied by Joseph Armstrong, as a real estate office. Mr. Beyea retired from the stone-mason's trade in about 1873. He has held several offices of public trust. He was the first assessor of Douglas township. He filled the office of supervisor of Douglas township three terms, and township collector two terms. He is now holding his second term of office as justice of the peace. In all of these offices Mr. Beyea has acquitted himself in an honorable and creditable manner. His politics are republican, and he is one of the eight republicans who have worked so hard for the success of the party in Gilman.

Wright Brothers, hardware merchants, are among the leading hardware men of Gilman, which firm is composed of George D. and Charles M., both natives of Kane county, Illinois, who moved to Gilman at an early day. The firm of Wright Brothers commenced business in Gilman in its present room, in 1876, located in the Wenger Block. They occupy three floors: basement, first and second floors, size 20 feet front by 70 deep. They keep a large stock of hardware and stoves on hand. The second floor is used for the tin-shop, where they employ steadily a regular tinner. The Wright Brothers are the sons of John F. Wright, who was born in Oneida county, New York, in 1812. John F. Wright remained in Oneida county until he was about five years of age, and then moved with his parents to Genesee county, New York. From this county, in 1839, he made a trip west to Illinois and visited the present county of Iroquois, then a wild country. He returned to Genesee county and married Abigail McWayne, of New York. In 1844 Mr. Wright and wife came west to Illinois, and located in St. Charles, Kane county, where he engaged in the mercantile business, and remained until 1859, when he came to Gilman with his family. Here he engaged in the mercantile business, being the second merchant to sell goods in Gilman. He continued in business about two years, when he went to Watseka, and sold goods some three years. From there he moved his family to a farm in Iroquois township, where he engaged in farming and stock-raising some four years, when he returned to Gilman, and has been a honored resident ever since. He has been engaged in the real-estate business. Mr. Wright has held several offices of public trust. He was supervisor of Iroquois township two terms, and supervisor of Douglas township one term. He was mayor of Gilman two years. In this office Mr. Wright acquitted himself in a very creditable manner. He is a demo-

crat in politics. He is the father of four children ; three born in Kane county and one in Iroquois.

Nelson Eldred, proprietor of the Gilman creamery, was born in Herkimer county, New York, September 13, 1816, and there he remained until he was about twenty-one years of age. He then came west to Illinois, and located in Morgan county, where he was engaged in raising the silk-worm. This not proving a success, he retired from this business after trying for some three years. He is satisfied that the silk-worm cannot be successfully cultivated in this part of the United States. From Morgan county he moved to Greene county, where he remained some four years. Here he was engaged in teaching school. He then moved to Rock county, Wisconsin, where he farmed some eleven years, when he went to Davenport, Iowa, and embarked in the lumber business, which was very profitable to him. From there he returned to Illinois and located in Kankakee city, where he commenced the lumber business. While a resident there he attempted lumber manufacturing in the pineries of Michigan. He invested \$16,000 in erecting a mill and buying land. He was not very successful, as he lost most of his capital invested. In 1860 he came to Iroquois county and farmed here some three years. He went to Iowa Falls, Iowa, where he was in the mercantile business four years; then in the dairy business five years. There he did a very good business in the manufacture of cheese, making as high as 600 pounds a day. In 1875 he came to Gilman and commenced the erection of his present creamery, a brick building, size 36×40 feet, two stories high. He has two vats, each holding 600 gallons ; four churns, with a capacity of 60 gallons each, run by steam. He makes, in the summer months, about 1,000 pounds per week, and in the winter months about 300 pounds per week. He finds sale for his butter in the New Orleans markets. This creamery was the first regular creamery built in Iroquois county.

John Shule, agricultural dealer and harness-maker, Gilman, was born near Darmstadt, Prussia, in 1832. With his parents he emigrated to America, and landed in New York city in 1847. He came direct to Illinois, and commenced work on a farm in Cook county at \$3 per month. He remained a resident of Cook county about five years, and then went to Kane county and engaged working on a farm three years. He then moved to DeKalb county, where he purchased a farm of 120 acres of land. Mr. Shule gave to his father all the money he made up to the time he was nineteen years of age. From that on he worked and accumulated money for himself. He remained in DeKalb county about twelve years, when, in 1861, he came to Gilman, then in its infancy. Here he commenced farming and dealing in

stock, and was very successful for the first few years. Mr. Shule has followed farming ever since he has been a resident here. In 1867 he built his present business block. In 1874 he embarked in the agricultural business and engaged in the harness business. To-day he is the oldest agricultural dealer in Gilman. His son-in-law, Mr. Lewis Eppelsheimer, is the book-keeper in the agricultural department. In both departments, in busy times, Mr. Shule employs six hands. The store used for his agricultural department is  $20 \times 60$  feet. The harness shop is  $20 \times 50$ . When Mr. Shule first came to Gilman it was a town of some eight or ten houses. He has held the offices of alderman and street commissioner. Mr. Shule was married to Miss Margaret Hammel, of Germany, who came to America when she was two years of age. By this marriage they have seven children.

Andrew J. Alexander, supervisor of Douglas township, Gilman, is one of the prominent men of Iroquois county. He was born in Fauquier county, Virginia, January 25, 1821, and is the son of Jerard and Elizabeth (Henry) Alexander. When he was about six years of age, with his parents, he moved to Kentucky and located in Meade county. From there they moved to Breckinridge county; where his father died July 2, 1834, at fifty years of age. Mr. Alexander remained in Breckinridge county, where he received a common-school education, and graduated from the Georgetown College about 1840. Soon afterward he made a trip, on a keel-boat, down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers, and up the Red river to Shreveport. He returned to Breckinridge county, then to Davis county, near Owensboro, Kentucky, on a farm. In 1843 he was married to Miss Lucy A. Washington, a distant relative of Gen. George Washington. From Davis county Mr. Alexander returned to Meade county, and in 1864 came to Iroquois county and purchased his present farm. In 1865 he moved his family. Mr. Alexander is a democrat in politics. He has been supervisor of Douglas township for the last ten years.

Charles Layer, grocer, Gilman, is one of the leading business men of Gilman. He was born in Germany, in 1836, where he learned the trade of a baker. In 1854 he emigrated to America, and landed in Quebec, financially a poor man. From Quebec he went to New York city, and worked at his trade about two years. He then came west to Illinois, and worked at his trade in Peoria, and about 1858, having saved a little money working at his trade, went to Washington, Tazewell county, Illinois, and set up a little bakery. Here he met with good success, and married Miss Katherine Ringeisen, of Germany. They remained in Washington until 1864, when Mr. Layer came to Gilman and em-



barked first in the restaurant business, his being the first restaurant in Gilman. This he followed until 1865, when he entered the grocery business, being among the first of this place. He commenced the business in his present stand, and is to-day the oldest grocery merchant in Gilman. Since Mr. Layer has been engaged in the mercantile business in Gilman he has associated himself as a business partner with G. Holliday, John Burkee and Charles Meyer. Mr. Layer has been engaged in business in Gilman ever since he came here, except in 1872, when he made a trip to his native country, Germany, to see his mother, brothers, sisters and friends. He made a pleasant visit and returned to Gilman, where he has been recognized as one of the honorable citizens of the place, holding the office of city trustee for two terms, and refusing the third term. By his marriage Mr. Layer has four children. William, his son, is clerk in the store. He was born in Washington. When Mr. Layer first came to Gilman he did not engage in the bakery business, because the village was too small. After several years he commenced the bakery business. Mr. Layer's parents are both dead.

John D. Leland, attorney-at-law, Gilman, is one of the leading attorneys of the Iroquois county bar. He was born in Rose township, Wayne county, New York, January 20, 1835, and is the son of Gail and Polly (Phelps) Leland, both natives of the state of New York. Mr. Leland's grandfather was a soldier of the war of 1812. In 1836, when Mr. Leland was a babe, with his parents he moved to Ohio, and located in Geauga county, then very wild, they being among the early settlers of that county. Here the subject of this sketch remained until he was about twenty-one years of age, engaged in farming and attending the district schools of the period "in a little red school-house." From that he attended schools and seminaries in different parts of Ohio. From Geauga county Mr. Leland, with his parents, moved to Ashtabula county. Here, when he was about twenty-three years of age, he was married to Miss Cornelia Alderman, of Ohio. In May, 1864, Mr. Leland moved to Illinois, and first located in Onarga. From there he came to Gilman, where he began teaching school, which profession he followed while in Ohio. He taught the school in Gilman located about three blocks from the Wenger Block,—his first term here. He had about forty pupils, they coming from a distance of six miles. The school improved rapidly, so that at the end of two years he had some 120 scholars in attendance. During Mr. Leland's school teaching he would teach school in the daytime and study law at night. In 1867 he was elected justice of the peace, which office he filled for ten years, and was recognized as one of the leading justices of Iroquois

county. In 1869 he was admitted to practice law at the Illinois bar, and to-day is the oldest practicing attorney located at Gilman. Perhaps Mr. Leland is one of the best known men in Gilman. He has taken a very active part in politics, representing Gilman at almost all the republican conventions for the last ten years. He has held several offices of public trust in Gilman: city clerk, township clerk and supervisor. In these offices he has acquitted himself in a very creditable manner. Mr. Leland's first wife died, and he married his present wife, Mrs. Mary Shultz. She has one child, a daughter. Mr. Leland had one child by his first wife.

Columbus Cross, proprietor of marble and granite works, Gilman, was born in Utica, New York, in 1825, and is the son of Erastus Cross, who was a resident of Utica when it was known as Fort Schuyler. This was some time before the building of the Erie canal. Erastus Cross was a large marble dealer in Utica, and here the subject of this sketch commenced business. He remained a resident of Utica until he was twenty-three years of age. In 1848 he came west to Ohio and was made manager of some large marble works at Zanesville, owned by a firm of Vermont. Here Mr. Cross remained about four years, when he went to Cincinnati, Ohio, and formed the firm of Smith & Cross, who were proprietors of one of the largest marble works at that time in Cincinnati, Ohio, employing over sixty agents and collectors to do the business. They did a business in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and the Southern States. Mr. Cross continued in Cincinnati about five years, when he returned to Utica, New York. At the breaking out of the late civil war he enlisted in Co. E, 2d N. Y. Cavalry. He remained in service until 1865. He participated in some of the most severe battles during the war, fighting under that gallant leader, Phil. Sheridan. Mr. Cross was wounded at the battle of Burk's Station in the left knee by a musket ball. He served as captain in Co. E. He was a brave soldier, and was honorably mustered out in July, 1865, at the close of the war. He returned to Utica, and in the fall of 1865 came west to Illinois. He remained in Chicago a short time, and from there came to Iroquois county and commenced the marble business at Onarga in 1869. He came to Gilman on account of the railroad facilities being better. Here he is doing a very extensive business in the manufacture of monuments and tombstones. He sells his work in Momence, Onarga, Rensselaer, Odell, Pontiac and Watsekā. At the latter place he erected a fine monument for the late Dr. Fowler. In Onarga cemetery he erected a monument to the memory of George W. Marshal, which is the largest monument in Iroquois county. Mr. Cross employs some fifteen men. He has in connection a steam stone

saw-mill. He buys most of his marble and granite from first hands, importing marble and granite. His business amounts to as high as \$25,000 per year.

H. C. Mosher, merchant, Gilman, was born in La Salle county, Illinois, February 15, 1836, and is the son of Ira and Louisa (Pease) Mosher. Ira Mosher was a native of Saratoga county, New York. He married in New York, and about 1830, with his wife and one child, emigrated west to Illinois and located in La Salle, then a wild county, inhabited by the Indian and the wolf. Here they commenced farming, being among the first settlers of the county. Ira Mosher participated in the Black Hawk war of 1832. He died March 1, 1874, respected and honored. The subject of this sketch remained on his father's farm, engaged in farming, and in the winter months attending the district schools of the period. When very young he helped his father to haul grain, etc., to the Chicago market. In 1862 Mr. Mosher enlisted in the late civil war in Co. K, 107th Ill. Vol. Inf. After serving one year in the 107th he was transferred to Battery K, 1st Ill. Light Art., where he served until the expiration of three years, doing good duty. Here we may state that Mr. Mosher had three brothers in the late war, and the four brothers together saw fifteen years of active service, participating in some of the most severe battles of the war. Charles Mosher enlisted in 1861 in Co. A, 8th Ill. Vol. Inf. He participated in the battles of Fort Henry, Fort Donelson (where he received a scalp wound), Shiloh, siege of Vicksburg, Champion Hill, Jackson, and the last battle fought during the war—battle of the Blakelys, or siege of Mobile. He was honorably mustered out, and is now engaged in the mercantile business in Gilman. E. W. Mosher enlisted in 1862 in the 104th Ill. Vol. Inf. He was captured by the guerilla, John Morgan, in Tennessee, but was soon after paroled, and was in Sherman's march to the sea through the Carolinas and to Washington, where he participated in the grand review at the close of the war. George I. Mosher enlisted in the 53d Ill. Vol. Inf. He did good service, and was honorably mustered out. When H. C. Mosher returned from the army he embarked in the dry-goods business in Marshall county. In 1866 he came to Gilman, and was largely engaged in the real-estate business. The firm of Dent & Mosher purchased 360 acres of land which laid on the south side of the Toledo, Peoria & Warsaw railroad track. Since Mr. Mosher's residence in Gilman he has been engaged in the lumber and grain business. At present he is engaged in the dry-goods business, also farming. Mr. Mosher was married to Miss Elizabeth Baker, of New York state.

Charles Meyer, furniture dealer and justice of the peace, is prominent



among the pioneer business men of Gilman: He was born in Pomerania, Germany, in 1839. In 1859 he emigrated to America, and landed in Quebec. From there he went to Michigan, where he worked in the lumber business a short time, and then, in 1859, the same year of his emigration to America, he came to Illinois, and worked on a farm in Iroquois county. He afterward went to Livingston county, where he remained until the late civil war. In 1862 he enlisted in Co. K, 129th Ill. Vol. Inf., for three years as private. He did good service, participating in some of the most severe battles of the war: Resaca, Dallas, Lost Mountain, and Kenesaw Mountain. During the battle of Dallas he was captured. He and two of his comrades were carrying a log to build breastworks, when his two comrades were shot, and the whole of the log fell on him. He was then taken to the Nashville hospital, where he remained for a number of days. He was honorably mustered out, and he returned to Livingston county, where he remained until 1866. He then came to Gilman, where he has been a worthy citizen ever since. He first embarked in the butcher business, and from this he entered the general grocery business with Mr. Charles Layer, who is one of the pioneer grocery men of Gilman. From the grocery business, Mr. Meyer, in 1875, entered the furniture business in company with Daniel Althan. This firm continued about one year. Mr. Meyer is now engaged in the business alone. He occupies a store on Central street, size 25 x 53 feet, two stories high. He is doing a good business in his line. In 1877 Mr. Meyer was made justice of the peace. He was alderman of Gilman two terms. He is at present school trustee. He has given entire satisfaction in all of his offices.

Elias Wenger, physician, Gilman, is perhaps one of the best known and most highly respected business men of Gilman. To write a history of Gilman without mentioning Dr. Wenger would be very incomplete. He was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, April 16, 1821, and is the son of Abraham and Mary (Grove) Wenger, both natives of Virginia. The subject of this sketch remained in his native county until he was about thirteen years of age, when he moved to Augusta, Virginia. Here he received his principal education, and at eighteen he began the study of medicine. He was also engaged in teaching the district schools. At twenty-one years of age Dr. Wenger was married to Miss Eliza J. Smith. At twenty-seven years of age, in 1848, with his wife and three children, he came to Illinois, and located in Washington, Tazewell county, where he began in the drug business, starting and owning the first drug store at that place. In 1855 he graduated from the Rush Medical College of Chicago, and began the practice of medicine in Washington, where he associated himself as a

business partner with Dr. E. F. Wood. While Dr. Wenger was a resident of Washington the people kept him continually in some public office. He served them well. He was justice of the peace twelve years; supervisor three years; and in 1863 he was nominated and elected to the legislature, which office he filled for one term, proving himself a man of acknowledged ability. In 1865 Dr. Wenger moved to Gilman, then a small town of thirty-one buildings, and here he invested largely in real estate, first purchasing the estate of Chamberlain & Brown, afterward purchasing largely from O. Chanute. In 1870 and 1871 Dr. Wenger erected the Wenger Block, a fine brick business block, size 129 feet front by 70 feet deep, two stories high, and perhaps the best business block in Iroquois county. Since Dr. Wenger's residence in Gilman he has been engaged in his profession. In 1875 he embarked in the mercantile business, but not meeting with good success, he retired after two years. Since his residence in Gilman he has held the offices of school treasurer, police justice, alderman and trustee, giving entire satisfaction. He drafted the first charter in the incorporation of Gilman in 1867. Dr. Wenger's political opinions are democratic, and in religion he is a Universalist. He is the parent of seven children.

Joseph Armstrong, real-estate and insurance agent, Gilman, was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, August 10, 1838, and is the son of John and Nancy (Meanes) Armstrong. His mother was born in Pennsylvania, and his father was a native of Ireland, who came to America when he was about twenty-one years of age. Mr. Armstrong remained a resident of Washington county until he was about twenty-five years of age, receiving his principal education there. In 1867 he came west to Illinois, and located in Gilman, where he entered the drug business, and remained in this business until 1872, when he retired and embarked in the real-estate business, in which he has continued ever since. Besides his real-estate business, Mr. Armstrong is engaged in the loan and insurance business, representing some of the leading insurance companies of America. Mr. Armstrong is city clerk of Gilman. He is a republican in politics, and a member of the Presbyterian church. He married Miss Nancy J. Sturgeon, of Washington county, Pennsylvania.

D. Kerr, county school superintendent, is one of the prominent men of Gilman. He was born in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, January 27, 1821, and is the son of William and Elizabeth (Mercer) Kerr. His mother was a native of Virginia and his father of Pennsylvania. William Kerr was a carpenter by trade, and followed farming the latter part of his life. When Mr. Kerr, the subject of this sketch, was very young, with his parents he moved to Ohio, and finally located in Rich-

land county, where he was one of the early settlers. Here Mr. Kerr received his principal education at the Ashland Academy. He taught school in the winter time and attended school in the summer. About 1851 he began to read law, and in 1853 was admitted to the bar, at Columbus, Ohio. He then began the practice of law in Crawford county, and practiced about one year. He was made superintendent of the Bucyrus schools, where he remained about two years. He went thence to Galion, where he accepted a similar position, and remained there some six years. Subsequently he embarked in the mercantile business in Galion. In 1868 he came west to Illinois and located at Gilman, where he began the practice of law. In 1873 he was nominated on the farmers' independent ticket for the office of school superintendent of Iroquois county, and was elected, and reelected to the same office by a large majority in 1877. This office he still holds, and is considered to be one of the best county school superintendents Iroquois county has ever had. Mr. Kerr is also engaged in the practice of law. He is liberal in his politics, voting the republican ticket for president, and for the best man at county elections. He is a member of the Presbyterian church. He was married to Miss Jennie M. Munerly, of New York, and they have four children.

James H. Allen, banker, Gilman, is one of the most enterprising business men of the city. He was born in Preble county, Ohio, in 1832, and is the son of Andrew and Sophia (Bennett) Allen, both natives of Ohio. When Mr. Allen was very young, with his parents he moved to Indiana, and located on a farm in Clinton county. About 1855 he made a trip to Middleport, Iroquois county, with the intention of entering the mercantile business, but he returned to Indiana and commenced the dry-goods business at Williamsport, where he remained until about 1862, when he came to Iroquois county and commenced the dry-goods business in Middleport, and remained there until 1868, when he came to Gilman and engaged in the mercantile business until 1873, when he entered the general banking business, and to-day is recognized as one of the successful men of Iroquois county. He is a republican in politics.

August A. Hauback, farmer, La Hogue, is a native of Germany, where he was born August 3, 1833. In 1853 he emigrated to the United States and settled in Norwich, Connecticut, where he followed the business of house-painting, and remained there eleven years. In November, 1858, he married Mary Berger, who is also a native of Germany, born November 26, 1838. In 1869 Mr. Hauback came to Iroquois county and settled on the land he still occupies, the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 5, T. 26, R. 10 E. He had previously, however, lived



in New Albany, Indiana, and Fulton county, Illinois. The family consists of four sons and one daughter, besides the parents. Mr. Hauback has witnessed many of the rapid changes that have taken place in this county. He has an excellent farm and is in prosperous circumstances. He has been clerk of this school district for several years. The names of their children are: George, August F., John B., Eliza Jane and William A.

Charles C. Stone, merchant, commenced business in Gilman in the year 1869, and since that time has succeeded in establishing a first-class trade, and become recognized as one of the leading merchants of Gilman. He was born in Fayette county, Indiana, in 1848. His parents both died there, leaving a family of six children. Mr. Stone remained in Fayette county until 1856, when he moved to Wabash, Wabash county, Indiana, and at sixteen years of age he began to learn the trade of a harness-maker. Mr. Stone remained at Wabash until 1869, when he and his brother, William D., came to Gilman and embarked in the mercantile business by opening a general stock on Crescent street. The firm was known as Stone Brothers. It continued until 1877, when Mr. Charles C. Stone became entire owner. From Crescent street Mr. Stone moved to his present place of business, located near the post-office. He occupies a large double-room. The main room, 22  $\times$  24 feet, is used for his general stock of dry-goods, boots and shoes, hats and caps, etc. The other portion, 22  $\times$  20 feet, is used for his ready-made clothing, of which he carries a full and complete stock. In 1879 Mr. Stone established a branch store at Thawville, where he keeps a general stock of goods. This store is conducted by Mr. G. C. Lindsey. Mr. Stone is probably the largest dealer in dry-goods and general goods in Gilman.

S. S. Cone, attorney-at-law, Gilman, was born in Fulton county, Illinois, June 25, 1843, and is the son of Spencer Cone, who came to Illinois and located in Fulton county at an early day, being among the first settlers of that county. Mr. Cone was brought up on the farm. He received his principal education at the district schools, where he prepared himself for college, and was a student of Knox College, of Knox county, Illinois. He graduated from the Albany Law School, of Albany, New York, in 1868. He commenced the practice of law in Farmington, where he remained but a short time. In 1869 he came to Gilman and commenced the practice of law. Here he has remained ever since. He was for two years city attorney of Gilman, where he is the oldest practicing lawyer.

A. Crooks & Brother are among the largest dealers in general merchandise in Gilman. They first began business in Gilman in 1870, in

the frame building opposite their present place of business, where they remained in business until 1878, at which time they built their present building, which is a substantial brick, size 25 × 85 feet, one story high, with basement. These gentlemen keep on hand a general stock of dry-goods and groceries, and everything that can be found in a first-class general store. Mr. A. Crook, the senior member of the firm, was born in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, in 1840. He was a soldier of the late war, having enlisted in Co. D, 149th Pa. Vol. Inf., in 1862, for three years. He served with the army of the Potomac. He was a brave soldier and did good duty, participating in a number of severe battles: Belle Plaine, Gettysburg and others. At the latter place at noon, July 1, 1863, he was shot in the right leg, and was then sent to the hospital, and July 2 his leg was amputated. He lay in the hospital (a church) in Gettysburg, and from there was sent to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he remained for a number of months. Mr. Crook is a graduate of the Iron City Commercial College of Pittsburgh. Thomas A. is the junior member of the firm. These gentlemen are doing a good business, and are recognized by the public as leading liberal business men of Gilman.

Robert B. Johnston, farmer, Gilman, was born in St. Louis, Missouri, May 7, 1840, and is a son of Thomas and Hannah Johnston. When ten years of age, his parents removed to Rock Island, Illinois. At the age of sixteen Mr. Johnston crossed the plains with oxen to California. Here he remained eight years. Two years were spent in the mines, and for six years he was superintendent of a line of stages between San Diego and Yuma. Returning to Missouri he enlisted in the 4th Mo. Inf., B Gratz Brown, colonel; also served in Gen. Fremont's body-guard. He then became forage-master under Seigel, and saw service at Pea Ridge. His next service was as master of transportation, and he was stationed at Alton, Illinois. At the close of the war Mr. Johnston returned to California, where he remained until 1869. He then commenced farming near Rock Island, where he remained until the great Chicago fire, when he removed to Iroquois county, Douglas township, and opened a farm on section 2, where he at present resides. Mr. Johnston was married in 1860 to Miss Elizabeth Dutcher. They have four children.

West & McKinney, liverymen, Gilman, have had a very extensive experience in the livery business. Mr. West was engaged in the livery business for eight years at Onarga, where he kept a good livery stable and received a first-class patronage. In 1879 he came to Gilman, and the firm of West & McKinney was organized. These gentlemen occupy a good, first-class stable, and keep on hand seven horses and five good buggies.

Almet Powell, merchant, Gilman, is a member of the firm of Dent & Powell. He was born in Greene county, New York, where he remained until he was nine years of age, then came west to Illinois and located in Marshall county, where he was engaged in farming until 1862, when he embarked in the mercantile business in Lawn Ridge, Marshall county, by opening out a general stock of merchandise. Here he was engaged in business until 1871, when he came to Gilman, and has been in the mercantile business ever since. The firm of Dent & Powell is located at the corner of Main and Central streets. They occupy a large store, size 20 x 80 feet. The first floor is used for dry-goods, clothing, boots, shoes, hats, caps and groceries, and the second floor for carpets. This firm does one of the largest trades in Gilman. The firm of Dent & Powell was formed some three years ago. Mr. J. O. Dent is a very prominent business man. He was elected to the state legislature from La Salle county, and was also a member of the constitutional convention.

John W. Zea, grain and hay dealer, La Hogue, was born in Cazenovia, New York, and is the son of William and Laura Zea. His family moved to La Salle county, Illinois, in 1846, where his father engaged in farming, entering the land he occupied. John W. was married, March 17, 1855, to Miss Mary E. Arris, who was born in Lincoln county, Maine. They have nine children, all living. In 1868 Mr. Zea opened a farm in Ford county, three miles west of La Hogue, and in 1872 removed to the village and commenced dealing in grain, hay and coal. Mr. Zea has also been engaged in a general merchandise business; has been agent for the Toledo, Peoria & Warsaw railroad at La Hogue, and has held the position of postmaster for four years. Through Mr. Zea's energy and business talent a large trade has been drawn to this point, until La Hogue has become one of the important shipping points on the line of this road. Large quantities of hay are pressed and shipped. Mr. Zea is a Mason and an Odd-Fellow.

John W. Snyder, physician, Gilman, is one of the leading physicians of Iroquois county. He was born in Macon county, Illinois, in 1834, and is the son of Albert G. Snyder, who was among the first settlers of Macon county, Illinois, having moved there in 1831 or 1832, when there were Indians yet in that locality. He is now living in Kansas. At the age of twenty-one Dr. Snyder began the study of medicine. In 1859 he graduated from the Kentucky School of Medicine, of Louisville, Kentucky. He first began the practice of medicine in Sullivan, Moultrie county, Illinois, where he remained some five years. He then went to De Witt county, where he practiced about eight years. In 1872 he came to Gilman, where he has continued in the



practice of medicine. His office is located in the City Drug Store, which building was the first school-house built in Gilman. Dr. Snyder is a member of the Illinois Central Medical Society.

William M. Jones, hardware merchant, Gilman, was born on a farm in Wabash county, Indiana, where he remained, engaged in farming, until he was about seventeen years of age, when he came to Illinois and located in Edgar county. Here, at the breaking out of the late war, he enlisted, on the first call, in Co. E, 12th Ill. Vol. Inf., as private for three months. He served full time, and immediately reënlisted for three years. He participated in some of the most severe battles of the war: Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Pittsburg Landing, siege of Corinth and the battle of Corinth. At the latter place, on October 3, 1863, he was shot through the body with a musket-ball from the enemy, the ball piercing the right lung. He was then placed in the hospital, where he remained some thirty days, and from there home, where he lay on his bed, not able to get up for six months. He afterward joined his regiment again, but was not fit for active duty, and was honorably mustered out August, 1864. He returned to his home in Edgar county and worked at his trade, harness-maker, in Mattoon, Coles county, where he remained about one year. From there he went to Neoga, Cumberland county, where he carried on the harness business, and from that he embarked in the grocery and hardware business. He remained there until 1873, and in November of the same year came to Gilman and commenced the hardware business in his present stand. The building is a large two-story brick, size 22 × 90 feet, with a basement. The whole building is used by Mr. Jones, the first floor for hardware and stoves, and the second floor as a tin-shop. This store is the largest and oldest hardware establishment in Gilman. The firm was first composed of Jones Brothers, which continued some two years, when Mr. Jones' brother (Hamlin) retired. Hamlin Jones was also a soldier of the late war, serving three years in an Indiana battery. He is now engaged in the hardware business in Neoga, Cumberland county, Illinois.

Logan Edmunds, farmer, Gilman, son of Daniel and Eliza J. Edmunds, was born in Henderson county, Illinois, December 13, 1850. He was educated at Monmouth College, Warren county, Illinois. After graduating, Mr. Edmunds came to this township, in the summer of 1873, and settled on section 3, where he continues to reside. He has an excellent farm, and has been engaged in farming since leaving school. Mr. Edmunds is unmarried, is an Odd-Fellow, and in politics is a republican. His parents still reside in Henderson county.

Ira C. Moore, druggist, Gilman, was born in York county, Maine,

September 28, 1811, and is the son of Harvey Moore, a native of New Hampshire. He remained a resident of York county until about 1826, when he moved to Cumberland county, of the same state, and subsequently to Massachusetts. Mr. Moore had learned the trade of a saddle-maker. This business he carried on for a number of years. He returned to Maine, and from there he went to Canada; thence back to Maine, and in 1855 came west to Illinois. He located in La Salle county, and in 1869 came to Gilman. He remained but a short time, however, when he moved to Arkansas, and in 1874 returned to Gilman. Here Mr. Moore has remained ever since. He first commenced the manufacture of brick. He made the brick that built the two store-rooms in the north end of Wenger's Block. Mr. Moore occupies one room for his drug store. In 1876 Mr. Moore was elected to the office of police magistrate, which office he now fills. He is a republican in politics. He had one son, Justin Moore, in the late war. He enlisted at the beginning of the war, and served in the 33d Ill. Vol. Inf. until the close of the war, participating in the last battle of the war,—the battle of Mobile,—and the capture of the Blakeley batteries. He was a brave soldier, and did good service. He was mustered out in December, 1865, but on account of sickness he had contracted in the army, died eight days after his discharge. Mr. Moore married twice. His first wife, Selestia Lilles, is deceased. His present wife was Sarah S. Larnerd. They have one child.

Lamoreaux Bros., Gilman, are among the leading grain merchants of Iroquois county. They commenced business in Gilman in August, 1875, and to-day are one of the oldest grain firms of this place. The firm is composed of L. and A. Lamoreaux, both natives of Albany county, New York. They came west, and have since been engaged at their present business. Their warehouse is a large first-class elevator, with a capacity of 12,000 bushels. They have also crib capacity of 35,000 bushels. They have done a business amounting to 100,000 bushels in one year. They find sales for their grain in Chicago and the eastern markets.

Dr. S. F. Heath, physician, Gilman, was born in Merrimack county, New Hampshire, September 23, 1842, and is the son of D. G. and Sarah (Moore) Heath. The subject of this sketch is a graduate of Harvard University, in the medical department, having graduated in 1866. He practiced medicine in Boston, Massachusetts, a short time, and then came west to Illinois and commenced the practice of medicine at Dwight, Livingston county, where he remained some three years. From there he went to Nebraska, and thence to Streator, Illinois, where he was engaged in the drug business. In the spring

of 1877 he came to Gilman, and here he has been engaged at his chosen profession, and is to-day enjoying a good fair practice.

Rev. Moses Noerr, pastor of the Presbyterian church, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, August 17, 1833, and is the son of John and Wilhelmina (Brant) Noerr, both natives of Germany, who moved to America when very young. The Rev. Noerr is a graduate of Amherst College, of Amherst, Massachusetts, from which he graduated in 1855. He graduated from the Princeton Theological Seminary, of Princeton, New Jersey, in 1859. His first charge was with the Presbyterian church of Maquoketa, Iowa, where he remained until 1865. While in Maquoketa, in 1860, he was regularly ordained as a minister. Since leaving that place he has been engaged in preaching at the following places: Belleview, Iowa; Arlington and Milan, Illinois. He came to Gilman, and December 1, 1877, took charge of the Presbyterian church here.

Koerner & Keller, blacksmiths and wagon-makers, Gilman, commenced business in Gilman in 1877. Henry Koerner was born in Will county, Illinois, April 7, 1857, where he remained until he was eighteen years of age, engaged in working on the farm. He then went to Peotone, where he commenced to learn his trade, and remained there some three years. From there he went to Frankfort, and from there he came to Gilman, where he has remained in business. George Keller was born in Cook county, Illinois, July 1, 1853, and at about seventeen years of age commenced to learn the trade of a blacksmith at Peotone, where he owned a shop. In 1877 he came to Gilman, and to-day is a member of the firm of Koerner & Keller. Since these gentlemen have been at work in Gilman, they have made and sold some twenty-five or thirty wagons of their own make.

Father Patrick Aloysius McGair, Catholic priest, Gilman, was born in Providence, Rhode Island, February 8, 1854, and is the son of Patrick McGair, a native of Ireland, who was employed by the Rhode Island Beach and Dyke Works, at one time being manager of the works. He was killed by the machinery in 1878. The subject of this sketch received his principal education at the public schools of Providence, and is a graduate of the St. Charles College of Baltimore, from which he graduated in 1875. Father McGair commenced study for the priesthood in 1870. He was ordained a priest in Peoria, Illinois, on June 29, 1878. His first appointment was at Wataga, Knox county, Illinois, where he remained until 1879, when he came to Gilman and took charge of this church.



## ARTESIA TOWNSHIP.

Artesia township is the second from the southern line of the county, in the western tier of townships, and embraces all of town 25 north, range 10 east of the 3d principal meridian; and the fractional tier of sections, known as range 11 east; and the western four tiers of sections in range 14 west of the 2d principal meridian. It is ten and a half miles long east and west, by six in breadth. Spring creek runs nearly through the center of the township, having upon it originally a beautiful strip of timber, averaging about one mile in width, and the Illinois Central railroad runs across its center, having on it Buckley Station, a village of several hundred inhabitants. The farm lands lying off to the west of the railroad are beautifully rolling, and present a fine appearance, as most of the farm houses are of a good order and well built.

The only early settlements in this township were along the belt of timber which skirts the creek. Jacob Hull settled early on section 25, and for many years was largely interested in cattle, keeping a large herd, and a portion of the time a thoroughbred herd. He died in 1876. His widow, two sons and two daughters reside here still. J. S. McClave came here in 1853. There were no families living west of the railroad to the county line. The section house was all that was to be seen from the creek west as far as the eye could reach. Grand Prairie was grand then. He entered the south half of section 15 at the government price, \$2.50 per acre, and retains the land yet. He has been a successful farmer, and for several years has been largely engaged in the grain trade. J. A. Drake bought 520 acres in section 29, 1855. With the large range then, he engaged largely in the cattle business, both grazing and stall feeding, feeding some years as many as two hundred head. At first he bought in this vicinity, but latterly was obliged to bring them from the west. As late as 1872 and 1873, the prairies of Iroquois county were the feeding grounds of herds which came in here from La Salle county. For several years thousands of cattle were driven in from the more populous counties northwest of here in the spring and returned in the fall. In 1871 Mr. Drake built one of the finest farm houses in the county at a cost of \$5,000, which was burned to the ground with much of its contents, Sunday, October 5, 1879. He kept sheep for eight years, having as many as 900 at a time. He is still feeding cattle, though not so largely as formerly. Like most of the cattle men in this and the counties west of here, he only handles

a car-load or two at a time, where hundreds were fed formerly. There are several reasons for this: First and foremost is the unpleasant fact that nearly all of them lost heavily on cattle during the few years past, and are not in condition to risk as much now; and secondly, the multiplication of railroads and the reduced freight have made corn-selling more popular than formerly, and reducing the large prairies here to farms has driven the accumulation of large herds of cattle to the western frontier, and flax-raising has taken a portion of the land which was devoted to cattle, requiring less capital and making its return in from eight to twelve months earlier. Mr. Drake has this year raised 300 acres of flax.

P. M. Cannedy, who lived across the line on section 24, in Ford county, owned considerable land in sections 19 and 30 of this township. He was largely engaged in cattle and sheep, but traded his large farm at \$65 per acre for business property in Cincinnati. F. A. Harris, on section 18, formerly kept about 1,500 sheep. After the war the sheep speculation took a reversion, and diseases set in which carried off many of them.

George Webster was here farming the Campbell land in 1856. Jonas Pusey came here about the same time, and still lives on the northeast quarter of section 22. He has interested himself in whatever will advance the general welfare. He was one of the first to suggest the benefits to be derived from a mill to work up the flax straw, thus adding about two dollars per acre annual profit to all land planted to flax (enough to pay the interest on the cash value of the land), and was one of the first to put his view to practical use.

Captain Woodleton and Elijah Woodleton came here about the same time, but did not remain long. They liked hunting as well as Judge Pierson, but somehow they did not like the other inducements. J. P. Bibler had a farm here about the same date, and Parker Dresser, who was making a small fortune in what was called the "land office business" at Danville, had an improvement on the southwest quarter of section 19, about 1854 or 1855. Dresser bought corn here in 1860, and soon after put up a large elevator at Fairbury, which was burned in the first great fire in that town, about 1867.

George Needham was early on section 17, and sold and went to Kansas. Thomas Williams, now a prosperous and respected citizen of Hoopston, was an early resident on section 21, where Mr. Trusein now lives, and Mr. Day was early where his family now lives. Wesley Harvey had improved the farm where Isaac Whitehead lives, east of the creek, early, and sold it to Wilson Devore. Devore sold it to Thomas Pagget, who remained there about five

years, and sold and went to Indiana. Mr. Whitehead has about 400 acres of land, with fair improvements. He has one of the finest barns in the township.

John Montgomery also had a farm early in that part of the township. Reuben Durbin lived south of Hults. He was noted for raising the first and the finest pair of twins in this part of the country. He died here, and his widow lives in Onarga. Mr. Griffin commenced an improvement near there, and George Underwood, from Georgetown, Vermilion county, moved in about the same time.

Lewis and Michael Burlein commenced a farm on the prairie, where Michael now resides, as early as 1856 or 1857. James Carter, from Belmont county, Ohio, who now resides in Buckley, came to the western side of Ash Grove in 1856. His sons, William S. and Andrew L., went to the army. The former died soon after his return. Andrew resides on the farm. Eli Strawn, from La Salle county, who had been a pioneer in that part of the state, and who belonged to a family which had a national reputation for energy, enterprise and vast business undertakings, came here in 1869 and purchased a half section which lay east of the creek.

Very little of the farming land of this township is owned by non-residents. Messrs. Koplin, Strawn, Hartshorn, McClave, Lincoln, and other business men in Buckley, own considerable land. The former has sixteen farms in this and adjoining townships. They consider them good investments, and expect to see them still more valuable.

One of the most shocking crimes, and in its circumstances one of the saddest that was ever committed in the county, was the murder, by Fred Keoster, alias Fritz Rafter, of his wife, Mary, on the night of August 26, 1879. Only a year previously Keoster had married Mary Burmeister, a pleasant and agreeable girl, the daughter of parents living near by, and lived on a small place of 11 acres which he owned, near the railroad, three miles northeast of Buckley. So far as the public is informed, no unpleasantness existed between them until shortly before the crime was committed, when her condition of approaching maternity rendered her unable to work in the field, and she declined to help him. Naturally avaricious, he seems to have become incensed at this, and complained that her family were encouraging her in her course. On August 26 he drew some money on his flax-seed, saying that he wanted it to pay a note, and this was the last seen of him here until his arrest, a month later, in Iowa, where he had taken refuge. The next morning Mrs. Koester's sister went to the house and found it vacant, but with stains of blood and other indications of the terrible deed. Search was made by those who assembled, and the body was



found with a gun-wound and horribly chopped with an ax, lying in a ditch in the orchard. There could be only one theory, and that was that Koester was the author of this terrible crime. The horrible story of Mera was retold, and his tragic death. Vengeance was pledged from mouth to mouth, and had the criminal been then found, there can be little doubt what the result would have been. Fortunately, before he was found the feeling had considerably toned down. Ten years ago hanging for murder had well-nigh, as one criminal actually said, "played out" in Illinois, but the recent execution of several who had been proved guilty has very much changed the sentiment of her citizens in regard to lynching. The story of Keoster's escape and capture is short. He rode his horse to Ashkum, where he abandoned it, and walked to Clifton, the next station north, where he took the train to Chicago and went directly to Iowa, from which place he wrote a letter to some relatives in Nebraska, by which tell-tale letter he was traced and arrested.

Artesia was set off from the townships of Loda and Onarga, March 17, 1864, and organized by the election of J. S. Pusey as supervisor; W. G. Riggs, clerk, and E. L. Gibson as assessor. The principal officers of the township are at present: J. G. McClave, supervisor; M. M. Meacham, clerk; J. C. Harlan, assessor, and J. M. Lindenmeyer, collector. The justices of the peace during the political life of the township have been: Ira A. Manley, Japheth Hull, J. K. Smith, L. Grove, Calvin Newlin, Samuel Kerns, J. M. Riggs, M. M. Meacham and John Newlin. At the first election, in 1864, there were seventy-six votes cast. At the last election the number had increased to 271, which indicates an increase in population of about 100 per cent every ten years.

#### BUCKLEY.

Ira A. Manley, who, during nearly all of the life of this village has been a prominent business man here, came to reside here in 1856. He had entered into a contract with the railroad company for the land upon which the village stands, and rightly judged that this would be the place for a shipping point. He proposed to lay out a town plat and make this the central place for business between the two, Loda and Onarga, on either side. He secured a station, and named it from a relative in Philadelphia, Bulkley. The following year Franklin Pierson came to visit him. This was a queer place to come on a visit. There was nothing here but a station, not even a switch, and the scattering farmers back a few miles had hardly heard either of Bulkley or Manley. But Pierson was captivated with the situation. It was good hunting, and that was enough. He concluded to remain. They two did the grading and furnished the ties for a switch, and then Pierson

built the house where he now resides, and Manley went into the grain trade.

W. J. Riggs, from Chester county, Pennsylvania, had been in the northern part of this state for a short time, and came here in 1859 and built and occupied the first store here. This was the building now occupied for a paint shop. Pierson was a public-spirited man, and hence was obliged to make a hotel of his house, and for several years it was the only one in town. This same year Manley assigned his contract for the land to John A. Koplin, of Philadelphia, and he secured a post-office here, and named it Buckley, dropping out the *l* from the first syllable for euphony's sake, but retaining the name as nearly as it was for Manley's sake. The station is still called Bulkley. In 1862 Mr. Koplin came here and laid out the town in July of that year, on the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sec. 26, six blocks, four of which, between Railroad avenue and Oak street, were laid out in lots. Several additions have since been made by various parties. Mr. Koplin went into business with Mr. Riggs, and continued with him for some time. They built the store now occupied as a public hall, and Mr. Koplin built the house now occupied by Mr. Hartshorn. Mr. Manley continued to deal in grain, and for some years in lumber, and put up a small grain warehouse and corn-mill.

During the war the supply of sugar was so restricted, and the price so advanced, that it became an object for the western farmers to raise their own, and the raising of sorghum became very general. Messrs. Manley & Koplin put up a mill,  $30 \times 50$ , well supplied with the necessary machinery to reduce the cane to syrup. They paid farmers an average of about \$15 per acre for their cane, and ran the mill three falls, usually for about two months each, making about one thousand barrels each season, which was sold to Belcher, in Chicago, for refining. The barrels were brought from Chicago. Mr. Koplin then sold his interest in it to Manley, who soon abandoned the business and converted the building into a tow-mill, but did not carry out the plan. Riggs & McClave then bought the building and put in a planing-mill. After running it a year they sold the building and the property to the district, and the building underwent another change, so that now, instead of tow and lumber, the rising generation of Buckley is properly "flaxed" and "dressed down" within its walls.

Mr. Manley continued the grain trade until 1872, when he sold to J. S. McClave, who commenced the building of the elevator, but sold it before completion to Chase & Hurlbutt. J. B. Meserve built the north elevator in 1870. The following year W. L. R. Johnson joined him in business, and remained with him a year. Mr. Meserve was

carrying on the grain business at Roberts, and removed there. The elevator he built here is  $60 \times 60$ , with a capacity of 20,000 bushels. Mr. Johnson has continued the grain business, building the small flax-house in 1872, and conducts a like business at Thomasboro. The flax-seed trade is a growing one, and one that to the farmer is fairly remunerative. About 1863, E. W. Blatchford, a man largely interested in the manufacture and trade in oils, and a business acquaintance of Mr. Koplin's, called his attention to the advantages which the farmers of this part of the state would reap from engaging in flax culture, and proposed to loan seed for planting to those who would undertake to engage in the business. Mr. Koplin became at once interested in the matter of a new industry for farmers, and urged its introduction. It soon spread over this and the adjoining counties, and is believed to have proved a decided advantage to the producers, especially where they have, as at Buckley, a market for the straw. The average crop is eight bushels, and by experiments in chemical quantitative analysis, it is found to exhaust the soil about the same that wheat does. The first trials were made in 1864, and in fifteen years there has been but one crop failure. The seed now raised here goes direct to Amsterdam, New York, and the practice of loaning seed is still continued to a considerable extent. It has become a large business, second here only to the corn crop. The manufacture of tow for bagging was first commenced here by Pusey & Crane, in 1870, but lacking the experience they sold to Jerome & Dement, of Dixon, who were engaged largely in that business. They sold to the Decatur Bagging Company, who have similar mills at Onarga, Paxton, Rantoul and Decatur, and a factory at the latter place for making bagging for cotton bales. The building which Pusey & Crane put up was on Pierson's land, west of the village; but in order to get more room for spreading the straw to deglutinate it, it was removed to the farm southwest of town. The building is  $36 \times 112$ , having in it three tow-making machines, press, etc. The danger from fire is so great that the engine is in a separate building. The company pay \$3 per ton for the straw. The buildings and machinery cost about \$5,000. The engine is run entirely by the refuse woody matter from the straw. One ton of straw makes about 500 pounds of tow. The mill employs fifteen hands and three teams. The mill is in charge of Mr. John Heaney, superintendent, who has had experience in the business in the north of Ireland, and in St. Lawrence county, New York. Horace Lincoln came here in 1866, from Waukegan, where he had been county treasurer of Lake county, and engaged in trade, occupying the old store which Mr. Riggs had first built. In 1871 he built his present fine brick store,  $22 \times 60$ , two stories



and cellar, at a cost of about \$5,000. He afterward took his son in as partner, and the firm of H. Lincoln & Son is one of the substantial business firms of this portion of the county.

Dr. Nice was the first physician here. He was an excellent doctor and a good citizen. He soon returned to Philadelphia, however, where he has amassed a fortune. Mr. Riggs, after continuing in business here ten years, returned to Chester county, Pennsylvania. His life here, both as a leader in business affairs and as a pioneer in the educational and religious work of this place, will be long remembered by those who knew him here. Always active in every good work; full of zeal, tempered with a just sense of the proprieties and duties of his position; a credit to himself and society; respected by all. Mr. Koplin commenced the banking business in 1872, and has conducted it successfully since, managing that and his large real estate business in a safe and careful manner. In 1876 he was elected to the legislature, and served very acceptably in that capacity.

M. M. Meacham came here in 1864, and engaged as superintendent first, and afterward as partner, in the sorghum mill. He improved the farm just south of town, and built the house where Mr. Koplin now resides. He then engaged in farming east of the creek, and for six years past has been in the drug and book trade in Buckley.

Thomas McClave came here from Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1864. He went on a farm on the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 22, just northwest of Buckley, where his son still resides. His widow lives in Buckley with her mother, Mrs. Greely, who is believed to be the oldest person residing in the township. She was born in Maine in 1788, from whence she moved to Warren county, Ohio, at the age of thirty, coming here with her children in 1864. She is still strong in mental vigor, and in good physical strength. Her son Joel died here in 1869, leaving a family of four children. It reminds one of "old times" to see and converse with one who was born before the United States became a nation, and who spent the average years of a generation in the plantation of Maine before it became a state.

Thomas Quirk, who is track master for this section of the railroad, is one of the veterans in the company's employ. He commenced work on this part of the road in the fall of 1853, and has been in the employ of the company continually except one year. A portion of the time he was in charge of the wood-yard at Spring Creek. He has resided at Buckley thirteen years. He was here during those terrible winters which are remembered only by few here now. The road was new, and no farms, buildings or fences kept off the severe winds. In January, 1855, a snow fell, which was followed by terrible cold and high

winds. For two weeks the men employed by the railroad tried to keep the track clear; every cut was filled, and when shoveled out was quickly filled again by the driving snow; men enough could not be obtained along the line of the road to keep it in condition for moving trains. Every locomotive on the road was snowbound, and most of them frozen up. He undertook to walk one day from Spring Creek to Onarga, and he was supposed by his friends, for a time, to have been lost.

The first school was held in the house just northeast of town, on section 24; then for a time school was held in the house now owned by Dr. Balch. In 1866 the district bought the tow factory and four acres of land, and fitted up a good and substantial two-story school-house, containing room for three schools. Mr. J. M. R. Spinning has charge of the schools, with two assistants.

The "Buckley Inquirer" was started in 1873 by J. T. Riggs and J. B. Lowe. It is independent in politics; is published each Saturday, and is now under the management of Gen. E. W. Warren and J. B. Lowe.

The postmasters of Buckley have been the following: W. G. Riggs, W. S. Carter, W. S. Bonnell, John Newlin. The latter left North Carolina when he was a lad, because he did not like to live in a slave state, and came to Vermilion county, where he spent the greater part of his life among the Quakers, who had, like himself, run away from slavery and settled around Elwood, Vermilion and Pilot Grove. He was postmaster of Georgetown for sixteen years, serving under "Tippecanoe and Tyler too," and was a justice of the peace there for many years. Soon after coming here to live the people forced both offices on him here, and rather than prove an unworthy citizen, he "gave bonds" and entered on the discharge of his trusts.

Franklin Pierson has served as constable here nineteen years and deputy sheriff for twelve years. He received two votes for judge of the supreme court, and would have got more had it been generally known he was running. As it was, it gave him the title of "judge," by which he has since been known far and wide. Many another man has acquired title with less real ground to base it on.

Louis Volverding & Co. built the corn-mill in 1877, and in 1878 built the cheese-factory portion of the building, which is 20×34, two stories high. They use the Elgin vats, and take the product of from 100 to 150 cows. They have made 6,000 pounds of cheese in a month. They run it winter as well as summer, their room being heated by steam to prevent freezing. The business bids fair to increase. They find a market at home for all their product.

It is remarkable that in the course of business there has never been a business failure in Buckley. As a rule, it is stated, taken throughout the country, about ninety per centum of all who engage in trade or business enterprises fail; but here, with the exception of some small enterprises which were commenced without capital, no failure has occurred; and only one fire has occurred that was of a serious nature. Henry Crosby had a furniture factory which was destroyed by fire about 1870.

#### INCORPORATION.

A meeting was held January 2, 1871, at the school-house, to vote for or against incorporating as a town. It was decided that those should be entitled to vote who resided on lots in the original town, or in any of the additions which had been platted. The vote resulted in favor of incorporating, by thirty-four to six. January 10, an election was held in the freight house of the Central railroad for five trustees. The voting was by yeas and nays, and the following were elected: Eli Strawn, E. D. Hartshorn, J. B. Meserve, J. G. McClave and E. Luther. At the first meeting of the trustees Eli Strawn was chosen president; J. D. Riggs, clerk; E. D. Hartshorn, treasurer; Franklin Pierson, constable; and J. Haney, street commissioner. About the first business done was to provide by ordinance against allowing stock to run at large, and against allowing boys to jump on passing trains. To say that either of these ordinances have ever been strictly observed would hardly be historically true. The officers of the corporation at present writing are: John Stager, F. Pierson, C. Hurlbutt, G. Greely, H. Strawn, and L. L. Marsh, trustees; E. W. Warren, clerk; W. H. Hartshorn, treasurer.

#### CHURCHES.

The Methodist church was organized by Rev. Thomas Cotton, largely through the exertions of W. G. Riggs, about 1860. Mr. Riggs had long been a member of that church in his eastern home, and on coming here the destitution in religious matters moved him to action in behalf of church and Sabbath school. He was thoroughly imbued with religious zeal, and did much to mold the sentiment of the new settlement by the earnestness with which he advocated, both by precept and example, and by a godly life, the cause of religion and morality. Mr. Thomas Cotton, who was sent by conference to this field to work up the interests of the church, was a man of earnest christian life, who made his work a labor of love. Making no pretensions to eloquence, the lack was doubly made up by devotion to the cause, and earnestness in the Master's work. Soon after he closed his labors here, and while



stationed at Pontiac, he and every male member of the church, save three, enlisted in the army of the Union, and carried what Secretary Stanton called the "sword of the Lord and of Gideon" to the front, and from there to the sea. Every one of them returned well and hearty. Mr. Cotton is now engaged in the missionary work at Purdy, Tennessee, near Pittsburg Landing. Robert Hamlin, a man of exemplary christian character, was appointed first class-leader and steward. He continued to serve as leader until he removed to Nebraska in 1879. J. G. McClave was appointed steward in 1864. The church numbers about 100 members. The Sabbath school was organized about the same time with W. G. Riggs as superintendent. He continued to act until 1874, since which time J. G. McClave has been the superintendent until this year. Mrs. John Newlin is the present superintendent. The school numbers about 100, and has a good library. The church edifice was erected in 1861 and 1862, 30×50, and cost \$2,000.

The Presbyterian church was organized November 19, 1870. A committee appointed by the Bloomington presbytery, consisting of Rev. P. D. Young, Rev. Mr. Noerr and Elder P. Risser, met in the Methodist church. Mr. Noerr preached the sermon, when the committee acting for presbytery proceeded to constitute the church with the following members: Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Meserve, Mr. and Mrs. E. Darwin Hartshorn, Miss May Hartshorn, Mrs. L. C. Luther, Mrs. Louisa Huston, Mrs. Julia Levering, Mrs. L. Hurlbutt, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Keehn, Miss Annie Keehn, Mrs. C. A. Pierson and Miss E. J. Ducker. Messrs. Meserve, Keehn and Hartshorn were elected elders. Rev. Mr. McNair, of Paxton, supplied the pulpit two years; Rev. S. V. McKee's pastorate commenced May, 1876, and continued two years; and the Rev. C. P. Spinning is the present supply. The church decided to build, and in 1871 Messrs. Hartshorn, Ira A. Manley, and E. Luther were appointed a building committee, who pushed the work forward as fast as possible, and in August, 1872, the church was dedicated. It cost \$3,184. The church numbers now about thirty, exclusive of those who have removed without being regularly dismissed. When the Sabbath school was established, Henry Crosley was chosen superintendent, and has been succeeded in office in turn by B. F. Levering, Rev. M. McKee and W. H. Hartshorn. The school has an average attendance of about sixty.

As early as 1866 a number of German families had moved here from Downer's Grove, Cook county, who were members of the Lutheran church. Rev. Mr. Meir and others occasionally preached here in the school-house, and in private houses. In 1869 the church was organized, and William Alden, Henry Wolf and Fred Luhsen were

elected trustees. They proceeded to build the church edifice, which is 24×40, and cost about \$1,600, and the school-house 20×34, which accommodates about sixty pupils. The school is maintained by the members of the church, in the same manner as the church is supported. It is sustained eight months in the year. The teaching is in German. Rev. Mr. Swess and Rev. George Blenken have, in turn, served this church. The membership is about fifty. A Sabbath school is maintained.

#### SOCIETIES.

The Buckley Lodge, No. 634, A.F. and A.M., was organized and run under a dispensation a few months before the charter was granted, October 5, 1869, with the following original members: E. D. Hartshorn, H. C. Ball, A. J. O'Hara, James Outtrim, Joel R. Smith, Japheth Hull, Ira Q. Sanborn, A. T. Drom, J. G. McNall, H. E. Billings, S. O. Roberts, H. Lincoln, T. Hurst, William Carter, Levi Sanborn, P. J. Daniels, W. B. Flora and S. A. Didama. H. E. Billings was W.M.; H. C. Ball, S.W.; S. O. Roberts, J.W.; H. Lincoln, treasurer; Joel R. Smith, secretary; Ira Q. Sanborn, S.D.; A. T. Drom, J.D.; W. S. Carter, tiler. At the granting of the charter the following additional names were recorded as the charter members: J. W. Riggs, Calvert Hartshorn, M. B. Waterman, A. J. Whittaker, M. L. Waterman, C. J. Nelson, A. W. Niles, Nelson Soper, T. Temple, J. B. Meserve, Ira A. Manley, J. G. McClave. The following have served as masters: H. E. Billings, 1870; W. H. Meserve, 1871; Ira A. Manley, 1872; Joel G. McClave, 1873, 1874 and 1875; W. H. Meserve, 1876 and 1877; J. G. McClave, 1878 and 1879. The present officers are: J. G. McClave, W.M.; W. A. B. Tate, S.W.; E. Luther, J.W.; William Coultas, J.D.; J. R. Smith, tiler; J. A. Koplin, treasurer; C. Hurlbutt, secretary; A. H. Ruehe, S.D. The present membership is fifty-five. Lodge meets the Wednesday evening before the full moon, thus escaping the implication of being a "dark lantern" society.

The Buckley Lodge, No. 450, I.O.O.F., was instituted in 1871, with the following charter members: Simon Didama, W.G.; J. S. McClave, V.G.; Dr. M. Butler, treasurer; J. M. Hueston, secretary; L. L. Marsh, William H. Cleave and Woodruff Beals. The following have served the lodge as W. G's since that time: J. M. Hueston, A. G. Schleh, J. S. McClave, L. H. Hamlin, L. L. Marsh, James Patty, John S. Freeman, A. H. Ruehe. The present officers are: A. H. Ruehe, N. G.; Robert Watt, V. G.; L. L. Marsh, secretary; H. Ruehe, treasurer; L. L. Marsh, lodge deputy. There are twenty-five members. The lodge meets in Lincoln's hall Monday evenings.

The Buckley Band contains the following members and pieces: A

H. Ruehe, leader, E flat cornet; F. Kerns, E flat; J. G. McClave, E flat; W. H. Cleave, B flat; J. M. Carter, B flat; E. W. Warren, first alto; Henry Krumwiede, second alto; J. D. Riggs, tenor; J. F. Foster, tuba; W. S. Marsh, bass-drum; Elijah Pierce, tenor-drum.

"The Farmers Pioneer Fire and Lightning Insurance Company of Buckley" was organized and received its charter November 19, 1874. The call for a meeting for organizing was addressed to the farmers of Loda, Fountain Creek, Artesia, Ash Grove, Onarga and Crescent. As there were none present from Fountain Creek, Douglas was substituted for that township. In December, 1874, the organization was perfected by the election of nine directors, of which D. H. Metzger was elected president and C. W. Sprague, secretary. Mr. Colebank was one of the chief movers in this enterprise, and to him, more probably than to any other one man, the existence of the company is due. He also made the first application for insurance, but died before a policy was issued. His death was a serious loss to the company and to the community in which he lived. The annual report for 1879 shows 103 policies, the amount of risks being \$97,587. At first risks were limited to \$2,000, but afterward the maximum was increased to \$3,000. The present officers are: J. Outtrim, president; W. R. Veatch, treasurer; C. W. Sprague, secretary. The company has been remarkably successful from the first.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

Samuel M. Major, farmer and stock-raiser, Del Rey, took up his residence on his present place in 1853. He came from Tippecanoe county, Indiana, where he was born April 4, 1830, and was married there in May, 1853, to Miss Annie F. Lee, also a native of Tippecanoe. She died October 19, 1856. They had one child, Flora A. In September, 1861, he enlisted in the 9th Ill. Cav., and remained in service until March, 1865. He entered as a private, and was raised to the rank of second lieutenant on his discharge. He took part in the battles of Guntown, Tupelo, Nashville, Salem and the other engagements of the regiment. After the war he returned home and followed farming. October 14, 1876, he married Miss Katie Stephens, who was born in Licking county, Ohio. He owns 172 acres in this county. His father, James H. Major, was born in Dearborn county, Indiana, July 19, 1802. February 9, 1824, he married Miss Mary Hartpence, of New Jersey. She died January 7, 1875. They had ten children, five of whom are living: Robert D., Mary, Samuel, Susan and Olive. He moved to Tippecanoe county, Indiana, in 1829, and from there to Iroquois county, Illinois, in 1853, and has lived here since. He was among the earliest settlers of Artesia township, of which he has served as



supervisor for four years. Mr. Major is now living with his son Samuel on the old homestead.

Robert D. Major, farmer and stock-raiser, Del Rey, moved to Will (now Kankakee) county, Illinois, in 1852, and in 1853 came to his present place and has lived here since, with the exception of four years in Chatsworth, Illinois, where he was engaged with a hardware and lumber firm. He was born in Dearborn county, Indiana, December 10, 1824, and January 7, 1847, he married Miss Hannah M. Richards, of Onondaga county, New York. She died April 19, 1848. January 11, 1860, he was married to Miss Ellen A. Hitchcock. She was born in Niagara county, New York. They have three children: Willie J., Hattie D. and Nellie D. Mr. Major has taken no part in the political affairs of the county, excepting the offices connected with the school and road. He owns 124 acres in this county, located about five miles northeast of Buckley.

Elmer Hull, farmer and stock-raiser, Buckley, came to Iroquois county, Illinois, with his parents in 1853. He was born in Delaware county, Ohio, September 15, 1844. October 28, 1866, he married Miss Lizzie White, of Clinton county, Ohio. His father, Japheth Hull, now deceased, was born in Delaware county, Ohio, March 3, 1821. He married Miss Betsy Lusk, March 3, 1842. She was born in Genesee county, New York. Mr. Hull lived in Delaware county until 1850, when he went to California, via the overland route, and remained there three years and three months. In 1853 he returned to Delaware county, Ohio, and in the same year came to Iroquois county, Illinois. He settled near Onarga, and in 1855 came to Artesia and resided there until his death, October 25, 1876. He served as assessor and supervisor a number of years in the township, and held the offices connected with the school and road.

Elwin Hull, farmer and stock-raiser, Buckley, was born in Delaware county, Ohio, March 27, 1843, and lived there until 1853, when, with his parents, he came to Illinois and settled near Onarga, and in 1855 came to his present place and has lived here since. He has held the office of constable, school treasurer and director. November 12, 1873, he married Miss Sadie R. Kerns, who was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania. They had three children, two living: George and Frank. Mr. Hull owns 200 acres in this county, one and a half miles northeast of Buckley. In 1873 he and his father went into partnership in the business of stock-raising, and continued until the death of his father, in 1876. Mr. Elwin settled up the affairs of the partnership, and he and his mother became the administrators of the estate.

W. F. Horner, physician, Buckley, was born in Cambria county,

Pennsylvania, December 28, 1826. The family moved to Montgomery county, Ohio, when he was but six years of age, and lived there five years, when they moved to Indianapolis, Indiana. In 1846 he began reading medicine with his father, Dr. Elias Horner. After reading three years with his father he read one year with Prof. Bobbs, of Indianapolis, and in the winter of 1849-50 graduated from the Indiana Central Medical College of Indianapolis. He then practiced with his father, in Indianapolis, for five years. In 1853 he came to Illinois, and settled in Ash Grove, this county, and lived there nineteen years. In 1872 he came to Buckley, and has practiced here since. February 15, 1860, he married Miss Eliza J. Smith, who was born in Wabash, Indiana. Of their six children two are living: Alice A. and William F. With the exception of serving as assessor of Ash Grove, in 1855 and 1856, the doctor has taken no part in public affairs.

J. M. Carter, grocer and hardware merchant, Buckley, was born in Guernsey county, Ohio, September 2, 1852, and lived there two years, when, with his parents, he moved to Benton county, Indiana, and lived there one and a half years, then came to Iroquois county, Illinois, and settled on a farm about five miles east of Buckley, and lived there until 1872, and the following year he became interested in his present business, the firm being Bonnell & Carter, which continued until the death of Mr. Bonnell in 1878, since which time Mr. Carter has conducted the business, and has added hardware to the same, it formerly being groceries only. His father, James Carter, was born in Pennsylvania, April 18, 1811, and was raised in Ohio. He married Miss Nancy Heskett, who was born in Pennsylvania and raised in Ohio. Of their four children two are living: James M. and Andrew L. Mr. Carter settled in Iroquois county, near Ash Grove, in 1855. He learned the blacksmith's trade when young, and has always followed it and farming. He came to Buckley in 1874, and has since assisted his sons, who have been engaged in business in Buckley.

Joseph Shaw, farmer and stock-raiser, Thawville, hails from the old Keystone State. He was born on his father's farm, in Cumberland county, October 6, 1818, and made his home there until 1853. At the age of eighteen he began working for himself, and later farmed the home farm in partnership with his brother. In 1853 he moved to Illinois, and engaged in farming near Peru, and in 1857 came to his present place and has lived here since. He was one of the early settlers of this prairie, and has witnessed it being transformed from comparatively a wild wilderness, in 1857, to its present state. He owns 320 acres located three miles southeast of Thawville. It is well supplied with living water, which adapts it to stock-raising, in which he is largely interested.

William McClave, farmer and stock-raiser, Buckley, was raised on the farm in Clermont county, Ohio, where he was born July 24, 1834. In 1858 he came west, and settled on his present place in Iroquois county, Illinois, which his father had bought in the fall of 1854 from the government, through the land-office at Danville, for \$2.50 per acre. October 6, 1856, he was married to Miss Sarah E. Muchmore, of Hamilton county, Ohio. They had seven children, six of whom are living: Ida May, Amer T., Martha, Robert, Sybil and Zoe. Mr. McClave was one of the first to settle on the prairie in this section. He owns a farm of 162 acres about one and a half miles northwest of Buckley. His parents, Stevenson and Sarah (Banghart) McClave, were natives of New Hampshire and Ohio. They were married in Ohio, where she died. He is living on the old homestead in Clermont county, where he settled in 1830.

Charles W. Sprague, farmer, Thawville, was born in Boston, Massachusetts, July 12, 1833, and lived there about twenty years, spending five years of the time in a drug and book store as clerk. He then came west to Illinois and engaged in farming in Stark county, where he lived four years. He then visited Kansas and Nebraska, and in 1858 came to Iroquois county, Illinois, and engaged in farming near Loda. In September, 1861, he enlisted in the 8th Ill. Cav., and was in the service three years and ten months. He entered the army as a private and retired as second lieutenant. He was in the battles of Antietam, Gettysburg, Fredericksburg, and all the battles of the regiment. After the war he came to Iroquois county and settled on his present place. October 24, 1865, he was married in Boston, Massachusetts, to Miss Caroline Burrill of that city. They had three children, two living: Arthur and Emily. In addition to the offices connected with the school and road he has served one year as supervisor of this township, and is secretary of the Farmers Pioneer Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Buckley, Illinois.

John A. Koplin, banker and dealer in real estate, Buckley, was born on his father's farm in Chester county, Pennsylvania, November 7, 1828. After the death of his father, in 1835, he was bound out to work on the farm until he was sixteen, receiving in all about one and a half years' schooling at the district school. He then learned the carpenter's trade, and after serving three years, he worked four years as journeyman, and taught school a few terms, after which he went to Philadelphia and engaged as a salesman in the wholesale dry-goods house of James Kent, Santee & Co., with whom he remained for four years. He then engaged in the grain commission business in the firm of Koplin, Hemsinger & Co., the firm continuing for five





Yours. Respectfully,  
J. A. Kaplan.

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years, when Mr. Koplin moved west to Illinois. In July, 1862, he had the town of Buckley surveyed on some land that he had previously purchased, and in partnership with Wm. G. Riggs, he opened the first store at the new town. At the end of two years he sold his interest in the store. He engaged in the lumber business and loaned flax seed. In 1869 he sold out and engaged in the banking business, and has continued in the same since, in connection with superintending his farming interests, which have grown to about 3,000 acres of improved land. He has served as supervisor of Artesia township for seven years, and in 1876 was elected on the republican ticket a member of the thirtieth general assembly, representing the sixteenth senatorial district, and though in ill health the greater part of the term, he served on several committees, and was chairman on that of banks and banking. He married Miss Fannie E. Riggs, who was born in Chester county, Pennsylvania. They have one child, Mark R.

Nelson Soper, dealer in confectionery and notions, Buckley, is a Canadian by birth, and was born near Niagara Falls, March 22, 1831, and lived there about twenty-four years, during which time he was apprenticed to a last-maker, and subsequently worked at his trade at Cleveland, Rochester, Detroit and Buffalo. At Wattsburg, Pennsylvania, he conducted a last machine, and in 1862 came to Iroquois county, Illinois, and settled at Loda, working at carpenter work. In 1864 he came to Buckley, and engaged in the grocery business. In this he remained two years, when he sold out and went to Detroit, and after two years' residence there returned to Buckley, and has lived here since. August 3, 1857, he was married to Miss Margaret E. Haley, who was born in Ireland, and came to the United States when about five years of age, and lived in Rochester until her marriage.

Joel G. McClave, of the firm of McClave & Riggs, dealers in general merchandise, Buckley, was born in Warren county, Ohio, January 18, 1835. He was born on the farm and lived there until the spring of 1864, when he came to Illinois and settled in Artesia township, and engaged in farming. In 1865 he formed a partnership with W. G. Riggs, the firm being Riggs & McClave. They conducted the general merchandise business until 1870, when Mr. Riggs withdrew. In 1871 J. W. and J. D. Riggs became partners with Mr. McClave, the firm being McClave and Riggs, and continued until 1874, when the business was sold, and Mr. McClave turned his attention to his farm until 1877, when, with J. D. Riggs, the firm of McClave & Riggs began again in the general merchandise business. Mr. McClave has held the office of school trustee for nine years, and is now serving his second



term as supervisor. May 16, 1860, he married Miss Caroline Tribbey, who was born in Morrow, Warren county, Ohio. They have five children: Edwin, L., Mary L., Charlie C., Arthur W. and Annie E.

M. M. Meacham, druggist and justice of the peace, Buckley, was born in Franklin county, Ohio, February 11, 1827, and lived there until 1864. He was born on the farm and lived there twenty-one years. When he was seventeen years old he began teaching at home, and later in an adjoining county. He also worked part of the time until 1864, when he came to Illinois and settled in Buckley, where he superintended a sorghum mill and taught school. In 1865 he bought some land and improved the same. He then moved to a farm in Ash Grove and farmed it for three years, when he again came to Buckley and engaged in his present business, and has continued here since. September 6, 1853, he married Miss Emma A. Benton, of Massachusetts. Of their four children three are living: Frank B., Angeline A. and Edwin M. He has served as assessor of this township for two years, as justice of the peace for seven years, and is at present town clerk.

Henry Ruehe, shoemaker, Buckley, was born in the province of Hanover, Germany, May 21, 1835. At the age of eighteen he learned the trade of a shoemaker. He afterward worked "jour" work for about four years. In 1860 he came to the United States and settled in Chicago, where he worked one year. He then went to Wisconsin, and after remaining there two years he moved to Kankakee, Illinois, and in 1864 came to Buckley and engaged in business as a shoemaker on his own account, and has continued here since. September 21, 1865, he married Miss Nettie Cornehl, who was born in Holstein, Germany. They have four children: William, Henry, Minnie and Annie. Mr. Ruehe has served as village trustee for one year, and has been prominently identified with the Odd-Fellow and Masonic societies to which he belongs.

Horace Lincoln, dealer in general merchandise, Buckley, is a native of Madison county, New York. He was born on his father's farm, February 28, 1820, and lived there twenty-five years. He then moved to Lake county, Illinois, and engaged in farming until 1855. He then went to Antioch, and engaged in the general merchandise for two years, the firm being Ring & Lincoln, the first year. Mr. Lincoln then sold out, and one year later moved to Waukegan and loaned money for two years. He was then elected county treasurer, and served two years. In 1865 he came to Buckley and engaged in his present business, and in 1869 his son became a partner in the same. December 24, 1842, he married Miss Lavantia Campbell, who was

born in New York, and died in December, 1855. They had three children, two living. September 2, 1857, he married Miss Ange A. Blakeslee, of New York. They were married in Lake county, Illinois. They have one child, Julia E. His son and partner, Melvin D., was born in Lake county, Illinois, June 24, 1848. He lived with his parents until 1875. June 10, of that year, he married Miss Clara, daughter of David Strawn, of Ottawa, Illinois. They have one child, Lela.

James Outtrim, farmer and stock-raiser, Buckley, was born in Surrey, England, June 18, 1830, and lived there nine years. With his parents he came to the United States and settled in New York, near Rome, where they lived for fourteen years. January 26, 1853, he was married to Miss Jane Carroll, of Otsego county, New York, and the following fall came west and settled in La Salle county, Illinois, and farmed there until 1866, when he came to Iroquois county. He settled on his present place, which he bought of the railroad company for \$10 per acre. By his marriage there were two children, one of whom is living, George E. They have an adopted daughter, Katie. Mr. Outtrim has held the office of township trustee and school director. He is also president of the Farmers Pioneer Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Buckley. He owns 160 acres in this county, the result of his labor.

E. D. Hartshorn, undertaker and dealer in hardware, Buckley, is a native of Madison county, New York, where he was born June 4, 1821, and lived there about sixteen years, when with his parents he came to Illinois and settled in La Salle county, engaging in farming. At the age of eighteen years he began working by the month on a farm on his own account. At the age of nineteen he went into the saw and grist-mill business with Cornelius Harris. They continued one year. He then worked by the month for two years, and later bought an "eighty" and farmed it until 1868, when he came to Buckley and engaged in his present business. He also purchased a farm of 160 acres, which he has since increased to 1,340 acres. In 1870 he formed a partnership with W. H. Meserve. They continued until 1875, when Mr. Hartshorn sold his interest to his son, William H. In 1877 Mr. Meserve withdrew, and Mr. E. D. Hartshorn again became a member of the firm, which has since continued as E. D. Hartshorn & Son. March 31, 1852, he married Miss Marietta Meserve, of New Hampshire. They have five children: William H., Mary, Horace H., Charles D. and Alice B. Beyond the school and village Mr. Hartshorn has taken no part in the public affairs of the township. While in La Salle county he served as school treasurer for fourteen years, two terms as

justice of the peace, and was supervisor of Waltham township the first two years after its organization.

Calvert Hortshorn, farmer and stock-raiser, Buckley, was born in Madison county, New York, July 29, 1827, and lived there nine years, when with his family he came west to La Salle county, Illinois, where his father had gone the year previous. They lived in La Salle county until 1868. He then came to Iroquois county and settled on his present place, and has lived here since. At the age of twenty-three he began for himself, working by the month for five years, when he farmed on his own account, renting at first. He now owns 390 acres, located four miles northeast of Buckley, all the result of his own labor. January 17, 1860, he married Miss Emma Miles, who was born in Madison county, New York. They were married in Madison, Iowa. Of their five children two are living: Carrie and Bessie.

J. H. Martin, dealer in drugs, books and stationery, Buckley, was born in Fayette county, Indiana, October 15, 1844, and lived there twenty years, when in company with his parents he moved to Paxton, Illinois, and clerked in his father's drug store until 1868, when he came to Buckley, Illinois, and engaged in his present business, and has continued here since. November 2, 1869, he married Miss Sarah E. Pierson, of Pennsylvania. They have one child, John F. During the war Mr. Martin enlisted in the 139th Ind. Inf., and was in the service about six months, serving as corporal of Co. D. The present business of Mr. Martin was bought of Mr. Fletcher, who established it in this town at the early settlement of the same.

S. O. Roberts, farmer and stock-raiser, Thawville, came from the old Green Mountain State. He was born in Rutland county, April 20, 1842, and lived there until he was ten years of age. He then came to Illinois with his parents and settled in Will county, where they lived until 1868. In 1861 he enlisted in the 9th Ill. reg. Cav., and was in the service until the close of the war, entering as a private and retiring as first lieutenant. He was in the battles of Tupelo, Franklin, Nashville and the other engagements of the regiment. After the war he remained south buying and shipping cotton for two years. He then came to Illinois and settled on his present place. In June, 1872, he was married, at Paxton, Illinois, to Miss Martha J. Ramsey, of Illinois, then residing at Piper city. They have two children, Jay and Kay. Mr. Roberts has a farm of 320 acres in this county, located about two miles south of Thawville, and has earned the same by his own labor and management.

John Mitchell, farmer and stock-raiser, Thawville, came from Lincolnshire, England, where he was born January 30, 1832. He



remained in England twenty-two years, and then moved to the United States and settled in Will county, Illinois, where he worked at carpentering, having learned the trade in England. In 1857 he began farming, and continued the same until 1868, when he came to Iroquois county and settled on his present place, and has lived here since. July 3, 1862, he married Miss Susan S. Roberts, who was born in Vermont. They have six children: Fannie, Gilbert, Charles, Julius, Sidney and Robert. The last three were born in Iroquois county, and the first three in Will county, Illinois. Mr. Mitchell owns 329 acres in this county. His wife's parents, who have lived with him, Calvin G. and Elizabeth M. (Dyer) Roberts, were natives of Vermont. They were married May 6, 1830, and had eight children, six of whom are living. Mrs. Roberts died September 8, 1873.

Gen. E. W. Warren, editor "Buckley Inquirer," Buckley, hails from the old Keystone State. He was born in Delaware county March 8, 1841, and lived there until 1850, when with his parents he moved to Philadelphia, where he lived until 1861. He then enlisted in the 3d Penn. Cav. and served during the war. He was appointed lieutenant, and was several times promoted, retiring from the service as brevet brigadier-general. He was in all the battles of the Army of the Potomac, except the first at Fredericksburg. He was taken prisoner at Hartwood Church by Hampton's brigade, and was held six months in Libby prison. After the war he returned to Philadelphia and engaged in photographing at 1628 Market street, and lived there until 1867, when he came west to Illinois and settled in Warren county, and in 1868 came to Buckley and engaged in farming. In 1877 he took charge of the "Inquirer" and has conducted the same since. January 3, 1863, he married Miss S. S. Stewart, who was born in New York. They have had five children, four living: May, Nellie, Alice and Frederick.

W. H. Stover, blacksmith, Buckley, was born in Augusta county, Virginia, May 4, 1843, and lived there on the farm for thirteen years. He then learned blacksmithing with Mr. Page, of Staunton, Virginia, and served until 1859, when he came to Illinois and settled in LaSalle county, with his uncle, at Conyea's Mills, where with the assistance of his uncle he opened a small shop and followed his trade for four years. April 20, 1863, he married Miss Mary N. Bennett, who was born in England, and came to the United States when a child. After his marriage he moved to the town of Freedom, where he opened a more extensive shop, and later formed a partnership with Mr. George Wolverton; after six years he sold out his business and came to Buckley, where he purchased the business of Donaldson & Sleight,

which he conducted until 1874, when owing to ill health he took a trip to Europe, visiting England and France, returning home the latter part of the same year. He bought a farm and moved on the same. He also worked at his trade in Roberts for two years, during which time his shop here in Buckley was rented. He then came to Buckley, and has occupied his shop here since. By his marriage there are three children: Luther J., Nellie V. and Cecil M. Mr. Stover's early experience was very discouraging, his youth making it difficult for him to get work when he first came west. But by energy and perseverance he has succeeded in gaining a reputation second to none, and his skill and ability in his chosen specialty of shoeing and plow-work are known far and near. He also received a diploma from the LaSalle County Agricultural Society for the best top buggy. In addition to his business he is interested in farming, having about 200 acres of land near this village. His success throughout only goes to show that no disadvantages are so great but what energy and perseverance may overcome.

Elisha Luther, lumber dealer, Buckley, was born on his father's farm in Yates county, New York, May 28, 1824, and lived on the same twenty-six years. In September, 1849, he married Miss Lucretia C. Alvord, who was born in New York. In 1855 he came to Freeport, Illinois, and engaged in the butchering and stock business, and in 1863 he moved to Chicago and engaged as foreman of the lumberyard of Loomis & Davis. He remained there until 1869, when he came to Buckley, Illinois, and engaged in his present business, buying the business of M. M. Hamlin, and has conducted the same since. Of his three children two are living: Carrie L. and Mary E. In addition to his lumber business he is interested in farming, having a farm near the village which he rents out. He has served as village trustee, school trustee and highway commissioner.

Eli Strawn, farmer and grain buyer, Buckley, is a native of Perry county, Ohio. He was born March 27, 1817, and lived there thirteen years, when, with his parents, he moved to Illinois, and settled in Tazewell (now Putnam) county, where he lived until 1838. January 1 of that year he was married to Miss Eleanor Broadbuss, who was born in Virginia, and came to Illinois with her parents in 1835 and settled near Lacon. After his marriage he removed to La Salle county, and lived there for thirty-one years, during which time (January 24, 1861) his wife died. They had seven children, six living. March 10, 1864, he married Mrs. Mary H. Dean, formerly Miss Hartshorn, who was born in Madison county, New York. They have one child, Myra. In 1869 he came to Buckley and built his present place, moving to the same in February following. While in La Salle county he served as

supervisor of Ottawa township from 1859 till 1864, and though a democrat he belonged to the Douglas school, and used his influence to prosecute vigorously all war measures. He has served here as village trustee for three terms, during each of which he was president of the same.

C. M. Chase, of the firm of Chase & Hurlbutt, grain buyers and shippers, Buckley, was born in Lyme, New Hampshire, September 1, 1845, and lived there twenty-two years. He then came to Illinois and settled in Iroquois county, and in 1869 came to Buckley, and in 1874 the present firm was formed, and has continued since. His father, Caleb C. Chase, now deceased, was a native of Lyme, New Hampshire. He married Miss Lora G. Goodell, also a native of Lyme. He died in 1853, and in 1856 Mrs. Chase married Mr. David Hurlbutt, a native of Hanover, New Hampshire. He died in 1867. In January, 1869, Mrs. Hurlbutt came to Buckley, Illinois, and has lived here since. Clinton Hurlbutt, junior partner of the firm, was born in Hanover, New Hampshire, January 9, 1851, and lived there until 1870, when he came to Illinois, and settled in Iroquois county, and later engaged in his present business. October 14, 1879, he married Miss Ellen Luther, of Buckley.

W. L. R. Johnson, dealer in grain, seeds and coal, Buckley, was born in Whitefield, Coos county, New Hampshire, February 7, 1841, and lived there nine years, during which time his father died, and his mother married again. They came west to Illinois in 1850, and settled in La Salle county, engaging in farming. He lived there until 1861, when he attended school in Aurora until August. In 1862 he enlisted in Co. C, 7th Ill. Cav., and served three years, retiring from the service as orderly. Eight months of his time he served in the quartermaster's department at Gen. Grierson's headquarters, at Memphis. After the war he returned to La Salle county, Illinois, and the same year he went to the Sandwich Islands, and remained there eight months as assistant in charge of a sugar plantation. He then went to the Guano Islands and engaged in shipping guano for the American Guano Company, remaining there four years, the last two at an annual salary of \$5,000 in gold. He then came to the United States, and settled in Buckley, Illinois, engaging in partnership with J. B. Meserve in the grain business, the firm being Johnson & Meserve. They continued about two years, when Mr. Johnson became the sole proprietor of the business, and has continued in the same since. He has held the office of town trustee about four years, and has served one year as supervisor. September 6, 1871, he married Miss Tamson E. Butters, of Maine. His parents, David B. and Mrs. Sallie D. Lane (Downing)



Johnson, were natives of New Hampshire and Maine. He died in 1841. In 1845 Mrs. Johnson married Mr. John H. Meserve. He died in 1858, and she is living here with her son.

Jesse T. McClave, farmer and stock-raiser, Buckley, is a native of Clermont county, Ohio. He was born June 30, 1842, and lived there for twenty years, with the exception of two years which he spent at school at Oxford, Ohio. He then enlisted in Co. G, 89th reg. Ohio Inf., acting as sergeant, and served during the war. He was wounded at Chickamauga, and confined to the hospital for seven months, when he rejoined the regiment and took part in the Atlanta campaign and the march to the sea. After the war he returned home and lived there until the spring of 1872, when he came to Illinois and settled the present place, belonging to himself and father. It contains 680 acres, and is located two miles north of Buckley. His parents, Robert and Susan (Taylor) McClave, were natives of New Hampshire and Ohio. They were married in Ohio, and now live on the old homestead farm, where he settled in 1830.

## LODA TOWNSHIP.

Loda township is in the southwestern corner of the county, being bounded on the north by Artesia, on the east by Pigeon Grove, and on the south and west by Ford county. By its original proportions it embraced one-third of what is now included in Artesia, and two-thirds of what is now embraced in Pigeon Grove. Now it embraces all of Congressional township 24 north, range 10 east of the 3d principal meridian; and the fractional sections of 11 east. Spring creek, here a narrow and small stream, runs across it from its southwestern corner to its northern side, having a fair breadth of excellent timber. The farming country is as fine as any in the county, the land being without exception good and gently rolling, making it susceptible of easy tillage. The farms throughout the township present the appearance of thrift and prosperity; the buildings generally pleasant and convenient, and the tillage showing care and good management. Few of its farms were brought into cultivation until the building of the Central railroad gave a market for the products of its soil.

So far as can be ascertained, Alexander Henry made the first permanent settlement in the township, where his widow still resides. This was in the year 1843. Everything pertaining to the first settlers in any locality is of interest, as the opinions, reminiscences and predictions of the "oldest inhabitant" are always listened to with

wondrous ears, and like the story of the earliest settler on this fair earth, his goings in and out in the garden, his matrimonial venture, his "raising Cain" so to speak, and his various trials and tribulations, are worthy of being noted down as records of times which will never return. Mr. Henry came from Indiana in 1837, and lived at the western side of Ash Grove six years. He then, with his two brothers, William and Jacob, bought 80 acres each of Mr. Kirk, and came here to make their homes. The following year was the famous rainy season, the first one which was known after the settlement of this county, but which returned with remarkable regularity each seventh year; the years 1851 and 1858 being each so rainy as to render it nearly impossible to raise any crops. During the entire summer of 1844 the rains poured in torrents, so that there was no opportunity to plant, or cultivate what little was planted. In the frequency and duration of its rains there has been nothing equal to it since, the year 1869 coming the nearest to it. The high-water mark at St. Louis in the former year is still held as the point of record. There were few bridges at that day, and those few were, with hardly an exception, swept away. The pioneers were obliged to go some distance to mill, and the dangers they encountered have been among the standing tales for two generations. The singular recurrence of wet seasons each seventh year gave rise to discussions—as indeed it could hardly have failed to do—of the law laid down more than three thousand years ago, and found recorded in the 23d chapter of Exodus, 10th, 11th and 12th verses: "And six years thou shalt sow thy land, and shalt gather in the fruits thereof: But the seventh year thou shalt let it rest and lie still; that the poor of thy people may eat: and what they leave the beasts of the field shall eat. In like manner thou shalt deal with thy vineyard and with thy oliveyard. Six days thou shalt do thy work, and on the seventh day thou shalt rest." It was often said, that there could be no reason offered why this law of the seventh-year rest for the land was not as applicable now as in Mosaic times; that the Lord intended that the earth should have an occasional rest, and if man was too greedy to give it such rest, the Lord had a method of enforcing his orders. Of course, as long as these seasons returned every seventh year, there was no answer to the Biblical argument.

The nearest neighbors the Henrys had on the one side were George Conn, five miles in one direction, and some residents of Ten Mile Grove in the other. A brother-in-law, Wesley Harvey, lived at Ash Grove, where he still resides at what is known as Pitchin. The first rainy season made William and Jacob dissatisfied, and

they returned, but Alexander remained. The nearest mills were at Covington, Indiana, and at Myersville, Vermilion county, and the nearest market for their eggs and chickens was Chicago. Mr. Henry brought with him a few hogs, five head of cattle, and some sheep, the main care of which was to keep them from the wolves. One evening when he was away from home, Mrs. Henry, as was her custom, went to drive the cattle home. There was one unruly yearling which broke away from the herd, and, being unable to secure him, she was obliged to leave him. That night the wolves killed him, and when Mr. Henry went in search of him early the next morning, he had the satisfaction of killing three of the fellows which were feasting on his carcass. They had four children when they came here, and three more subsequently, all of whom are dead and gone. The main traveled route, known as Butterfield trace, passed by here, and their house was the stopping place of travelers; this, with the weaving which she found to do, made plenty of work for Mrs. Henry, taken together with the care of her house and of her seven children; so that she was never in danger of getting into mischief from idleness. Now, at seventy years of age, the wheel is kept going, and she confidently believes that she can "flax out" any of the women of the present day living hereabouts. She wove 300 yards of carpet last year.

The first school was about 1849. It was held in one of the rooms of Mr. Henry's house, by Ruth Felton. About ten scholars attended. After this a school was kept in the little cabin standing near by. There was no church or religious meetings. Mr. James Smith and Robert Frost came in soon after and staid here. E. O. Bryden came in and settled where Mr. Coltax lives, and Mr. Gill also lived awhile on the same place. David Leatherman settled and lived awhile on the next place. Mr. McVeeter bought of Bryden. Francis Le Ball had a farm of 80 acres on the north side of the creek for awhile. He now lives farther southwest. There was a great deal of sickness at times, and the cholera was very fatal here.

Mr. Henry died in 1867, and Mrs. Henry still resides with some of her grandchildren on the farm which they first reclaimed from the wilderness thirty-four years ago. The railroad building made things lively in this neighborhood, and neighbors began coming in soon after that. The house she lives in was built in 1859, and is finished off inside with black walnut, giving it a decidedly ancient appearance. Henry Weaver came from Albany, New York. He lived twenty years in Wayne county, and then moved to Aurora, and, in 1856, took up the farm he still owns, on the fractional section 24,



four miles northeast of the village. He was one of the first to interest himself in the cause of religious meetings, and has consistently maintained the interest of the Methodist church, of which he is an honored member. In 1877, feeling the need of rest which age requires, he left his farm to his son, and took up his residence in the village, where now, at eighty-four years, and his good wife past eighty, he enjoys the love and esteem which faithful lives bring even in this present life, and the firm hope of that to come. They were the parents of ten children. A beloved son, Abram, was killed at Stone River. Henry and Volney are in business at Loda, and some of the other children reside near their honored parents. John Welch came at about the same date to a farm two miles east of Loda. He is now dead. James Welch took up the farm next east, and commenced to improve it. He sold and went to near Bloomington. Amos Ford soon after came on to the Mix farm and improved it. But very little of the lands of this township are held by non-residents. There are a number of good farms.

The following figures, taken from the last annual report of Ira Curtis, township treasurer of schools, show the present condition of schools: Whole number of children of school age, 462; number of districts, 7; average months taught,  $7\frac{1}{4}$ ; whole number of pupils enrolled, 341; amount of school fund, \$5,498.51; amount paid teachers last year, \$2,297.87; amount paid for incidentals and furniture, \$469; average wages paid male teachers per month, \$35.93; average wages paid female teachers, \$29.

The Patrons of Husbandry had a strong following in this portion of the county. The Advance Grange, No. 335, was located in this township, and for a time held a thriving membership. Among those who then resided in Loda township who were prominently connected with the institution were Mr. George W. Harwood, David A. Brown, now residing in Kansas, E. S. Ricker, of Onarga, Le Roy Robinson, J. B. Taylor and sons, H. Hollister and David Leonett.

The township was organized in 1856, the first officers being: J. H. Major, supervisor; R. A. Denton, clerk; S. Hatfield, assessor; and J. W. Tibbets, collector. The people of Loda township seem disposed to make but little change in officers, as some have held not only a "third term," but in the case of B. F. Price, twelve terms as collector only seems to have qualified him for a further tenure. A. D. Southworth was for six terms supervisor, and three gentlemen, E. G. Harrington, W. H. Bradley and A. S. Austin, held the office of clerk from 1858 till 1876. The present officers are: Hugo Vogel, superintendent; T. J. Healey, clerk; R. McFarland, assessor; B. F. Price, collector;

and J. C. Dunham, Volney Weaver and Julius Vogel, justices of the peace. The population of the township is about 2,000.

#### LODA VILLAGE (OAKALLA P.O.)

This whole country, from here south to Big Grove, where Urbana now is, and west to the line of McLean county, and east to the Indiana state line, was a vast uncultivated prairie, inhabited only by wild beasts and reptiles, when Stephen A. Douglas pushed through congress the bill for giving to the state of Illinois certain lands in trust for building a line of railroad from Cairo to the northwestern corner of the state, and a branch to Chicago. It was doubted whether this prairie would ever be inhabited. Many of those who had settled along the streams which run in all directions from the high ridge near Paxton, did not believe this vast prairie could ever become fruitful farms; and without the railroad, and the government aid given to it, it would have remained for many more years uninhabited.

When Addison Goodell came here, in 1855, from Lake county, Ohio, he found room enough for the sole of his foot, certainly, but no place to board. He was obliged to get his meals in Chicago, coming down in the morning, bringing his dinner in his pocket, and going back there at night. The town had been laid out by the Associated Land Company, composed of those who had interests in the railroad. The charter of the company forbade the corporation to become interested in the town plats along its line, but it did not prevent the members of the company from forming a "ring" like that which afterward became so famous as the "Credit Mobilier of America," and thus running all the town plats along the line. D. A. Neal was the agent of the land company here. It is not known who was responsible for naming the place Loda. The name at once caused confusion. There was then in Kane county a Lodi, and the confusion of names still makes trouble. A gentleman by the name of Norton, who was traveling extensively, learned of this confusion of names. He soon after met Senator Douglas, who had recently suffered from a severe sickness while in Indiana, and had, while thus suffering, been cared for by a lady to whom he felt under great obligations. As a tribute to her, and because of the beauty and propriety of the name, when he returned to Washington he secured a change of the name of the post-office here to Oakalla, supposing that the name of the town itself would follow suit. It is a strong commentary on the force of habit,—and that a bad habit too,—that, young as the place was, those who resided here never got over calling it Loda.

Mr. Goodell opened his real-estate business as soon as he could get

a building erected in which to transact his business, and has continued it until now, about twenty-five years. Josiah Huestis opened the first store here the same year, and is still engaged in the same business without intermission. H. E. and C. O. Barstow came here from Massachusetts and commenced a mercantile trade, which they carried on for eight or ten years.

A noted writer has said: "There is no method by which history can be so profitably studied as in the biography of its leading men." This is particularly true of the history of localities. The leading men of Loda have made its history. No man has had more to do with that history than Adam Smith. He was a man of great energy, great business capacity, unbounded expectations, and grand in the very boldness of his enterprise. It is difficult to decide which to admire most, the bold dash of the man or his consummate activity and energy. In the first flush of the "California fever" he made a fortune in shipping both to California and to Australia. He chartered or bought whatever vessels were in the market; then, by "buzzing" around a few hours, he would engage freight or passengers enough to pay for the purchase and expense of the trip, leaving him the ship free after a single trip; but at that early day there was no return freight, and he descended like a stick after shooting up into the business sky like a rocket. He came here in 1855 and sprang into business activity as he did in New York. There were only three houses here: the depot, freight house and section house; but he struck out as vigorously as if he had been on Manhattan Island. He purchased 16,000 acres of land of the railroad, selecting such as he was sure he could sell at an advance before time for payment, and set men to work building, farming and developing the country. His mind was no ordinary one, and everything he undertook was done on the grandest scale. He built one of the largest houses in the county; expended thousands on an extravagantly large mill; was the principal contributor to the finest church in the county; put up an extensive building for a hay-press; and built a hotel, stores and other buildings on a somewhat smaller scale. He put up a barn on his farm capable of stalling 1,000 head of cattle. Fifty thousand dollars is considered a not unreasonable estimate of the money he put into buildings alone at Loda. When the income from his business enterprises would not any longer keep the ball rolling and continue his huge schemes, he went to Chicago, where he figured as the claimant, by purchase, of large and valuable tracts of canal and other lands. This enterprise, which would have made him one of the wealthiest men in the city, fell through, and he retired to Nebraska, where he is now engaged in other magnificent land operations. All in all, he was one



of the most remarkable men of this county, and had he been possessed of a good supply of caution, he might have been a great success.

Dr. Foster was early engaged in business here. He kept the first hotel, which Smith built, for awhile, and died here. Plowman & Virden built a large mill here, which was burned about 1861 or 1862. It was a first-class mill in all its appointments, and is said to have cost them about \$25,000. It ruined them and some of their friends. Silas Virden & Brother commenced to rebuild it, backed by the citizens. Smith said it must go on, and finally he had to assume it. He continued to add to it and spread out until it had swallowed about \$30,000 more. It was commenced as a saw-mill, and the lumber was sawed to complete the building. It is 36×48, with engine room 20×48. It was converted into a sorghum mill, and used for that purpose two or three years during the war. There was then one run of stone, and Waite & Smith put in two additional runs and flouring machinery. After this Smith put in a grain-kiln, which was used in the fall for kiln-drying the new crop, and put up a huge store room for corn, which is 36×126 feet, having nine dumps in it, and built a railroad track, which runs the grain out to the Central railroad. The extra runs of stone and the flouring machinery were removed, and Mr. E. M. Hungerford bought the entire property upon which so many thousands had been expended for about \$2,000, and uses it for running his grain, flax-seed and meal trade.

The Virginia Company, composed of Hon. John Minor Botts, J. M. Hernden, John T. Lomax, J. L. Marye and others owned several thousand acres of land in this vicinity. Mr. Isaac O. Butter came here as the agent for the company. He died here, and his son remains here engaged in the lumber trade. A. D. Southworth, an engineer on the railroad, made his home here, engaging in the real-estate and surveying business. He was a gentleman of good business qualifications. For several years he was supervisor for this township, and was internal revenue collector. About 1870 he removed to Wabasha, Minnesota, and engaged in banking. G. W. Russell was the first station-agent, and Moses Wilcox first postmaster. During the intense political excitement which followed the "Kansas war," and the political unpleasantness which grew up between Senator Douglas and President Buchanan, Loda was strongly republican, and it was said that there were not democrats enough here to hold the offices. Mr. Copp, who had then recently come here, and a young man of strong democratic proclivities, resented this idea, and made application for the office and was appointed. He said he did not want office, but party necessity called on him to hold up the flag.

Addison Goodell has been more thoroughly interested in the growth and business of Loda than any other man. Coming here at the very first, he has continued a growing and lucrative business without change, other than enlarging as business demanded it. Strict and careful in his business habits, he has always done a safe and fairly remunerative business, at the same time holding the pecuniary interests of his customers as, in a sense, his own. Growing up in the Western Reserve during the time when that leader of anti-slavery sentiment, Joshua R. Giddings, was the prominent advocate in congress and before the people of those doctrines which triumphed at Appomatox, it is not to be considered strange that he imbibed sentiments which, later in the history of political parties, made him a member of the republican party. When he came here to reside in 1855, he had never voted for any congressman but Mr. Giddings, and his first congressional vote cast here was for Owen Lovejoy, who was, if possible, a more radical anti-slavery man than Giddings. This was Mr. Goodell's "record," when in 1862 he was nominated and elected to the house of representatives of the general assembly of this state. That general assembly was without a parallel in the political history of this state. The writer is not aware that any impartial history of it has ever been published; and many of the stirring characters who took part in that attempt at legislation, only seventeen short years ago, are now gone from among us.

Rev. E. Dunham, who was the pioneer Methodist preacher here, was a man full of faith and good works. He was born in Tolland county, Connecticut, in 1794. His father had been a soldier in the revolutionary army, and the lad grew up with that sentiment in favor of the universal freedom of mankind and equality before the law, which was prevalent in the "land of steady habits" at that day, and which was soon after planted in the Western Reserve by Connecticut minds. He was early converted, and joining the Methodist church commenced preaching, and in 1820 was ordained an elder. He was a man capable of great physical endurance, and often, in those early days, preached every day in the week to fill out the numerous appointments of his circuit. A man of strong convictions, good mental powers, and strong faith, he brought an earnestness to whatever he undertook, which was the real secret of his power. He early became a coadjutor of Garrison, Phillips, and other anti-slavery workers, and was a conductor on the "underground railroad" when that business was dangerous, even in the Connecticut valley, "in case of accident." He was an active worker in what was known as the third party, and then as the free-soil party. He came here in 1857, and continued his active labors as

his strength would permit as a local preacher. He is supposed to have been the first to hold regular meetings of the Methodists in this vicinity, and it was he who organized the classes here and at Paxton. He frequently held meetings at Thomas Wilson's house, east of town. He died in 1878, at the age of eighty-four years. Full of years and well worn, he was gathered to his fathers, leaving as a grand heritage to his children the memory of his good name and manifold wealth of christian labors. He left six children: Dr. J. C. Dunham, of Loda; J. M. Dunham, Esq., of Holyoke, Massachusetts; and Mrs. A. B. Brown, Mrs. E. Olmstead, Mrs. Henry Alvey and Mrs. Rev. Pliny Wood.

Samuel Hackley was one of the first to engage in the lumber trade here. Binks & Gould were early in trade, and Moses Wilcox had a furniture store here just opposite the depot. George Delker and Adam Smith were also early in trade. Daniel Healey came here from New York in 1857, and has resided here since that time. His son is engaged in the grain and coal trade. The elevator was built by Ira A. Manley. It has a capacity of 15,000 bushels, and is now owned by J. & E. Buckingham, who control a large number of similar concerns in various parts of the state, and have an elevator in Chicago. It is managed by S. B. Coleman. They have handled here 240,000 bushels of grain in a single year.

The Loda distillery was for several years one of the institutions of the place. Like all such enterprises it had its bright and dark sides. While it was running it made business lively, giving employment to a great many people, and keeping the price of grain up to a little more than it would otherwise have been. It was built, in 1858 or 1859, by a party of Englishmen: George Maxwell, George Wood and D. C. McMillen. At this time there was no government tax on spirits, and they sold at from twelve to fourteen cents per gallon. The proprietors enlarged it until it was one of the largest in the state. It had eighteen fermenting-tubs, and a capacity for running 1,800 bushels of grain per day, making about seventy-five barrels of highwines per day, and feeding 1,200 head of cattle and 2,000 hogs in the summer. Adam Smith run it for awhile, and Laduk & Gibbs had it for a time. Cleg-horn, Leckey & Co. got control of it and run it for while. They employed about 100 men in and about it, and so managed it that the government never had occasion to seize it for irregularity, although they did indulge in a little peculiarity in the manufacture of the barrels. The stave which was directly opposite the bung was made thicker than the others. It required four or five government officials to see to it when it was in full operation. Mr. W. A. Leckey, the





Yours Truly  
A. C. Rankin M. D.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

manager, died, and then it was idle for a time. Archibald Leckey then took charge of it, repaired it up, and the second day after starting it he lost his life by falling into a hot-water tub. The death of nearly all those interested stopped operations, and soon after it was burned, and the ground where it stood is now in cultivation.

The destruction of the distillery was followed almost immediately by the building of the new railroads which cross each other at Hoopes-ton, which deprived Loda of the trade of a large region of country which had before that been tributary to it, and the building of the Gilman & Springfield road cut off from the west a portion of the trade in that direction. A number of her business men found locations elsewhere, and many of her houses were empty. The people in the country who were making new farms found it was cheaper to go to Loda and buy a house than to build one, and many were hauled out to the surrounding farms. The town is partially recovering her former business prosperity, and is by no means the dull, dead place that has been represented. The business men are fully employed and are evidently prosperous.

#### CHURCHES, SOCIETIES, ETC.

A preliminary meeting was held by those who desired to join in the organization of a Baptist church, February 14, 1857, at which Adam Smith was chairman. It was determined to organize a church, and articles of faith and church government were adopted, and a committee was appointed to correspond with a view to having a council of churches convene to recognize such action, according to the custom of this denomination. March 14, a council met composed of delegates from churches at Spring Creek, Hopewell, Urbana and Champaign (Rev. A. L. Farr presiding, and J. C. Griffing acting as clerk), which sanctioned the action of the church organization, with the following original members: Adam Smith and wife, D. B. Davis and wife, J. V. Riggs and wife, and Albert Riggs and wife. May 2, A. Smith, J. V. Riggs and A. Goodell were appointed trustees.

May, 1879, a committee was appointed to represent this church in the Christian Association of Loda, composed of delegations from all churches here, for united action. In 1860 a call was extended to Rev. S. M. Brown, which was accepted. March, 1863, pastor Brown resigned. August 27, 1864, Rev. Harry Smith was chosen pastor and served two years. The first church was built in 1864 and 1865. It was 40×60, two stories high, and was built under the management and largely through the contribution of Mr. Smith. He reported that it cost nearly \$10,000, which is likely, as everything he built cost a good deal more than it ought to. In 1874 Rev. John Dunham was pastor.



During his pastorate, January 31, 1875, the fine church edifice was burned. The organ, library and carpet were saved. The fire was understood to have originated around the register, from an over-heated furnace. The Methodists kindly offered the destitute congregation the use of their church, which was thankfully accepted. In 1876 Rev. W. H. Roberts was pastor. June 3, 1877, the new church was dedicated; it cost \$2,317, and it is 36×60. In 1878 Elder Roberts resigned to accept an appointment to the Burmah mission. The church numbers seventy-two members. A Sabbath school has been maintained throughout the time. W. Wait is superintendent. The school numbers about one hundred, with ten teachers.

A preliminary meeting of those desiring the organization of a Congregational church at Loda, was held October 19, 1857, at which a council was invited to meet and sanction the organization. The council met November 4, consisting of Rev. W. W. Patton, of the First Congregational church of Chicago; Rev. J. E. Roy, of Plymouth church; Rev. W. H. Smith, of Kankakee; W. S. Hoyt, from West Urbana; and S. A. Van Dyke. The church was organized with the following original members: Talcott Smith and wife, Mrs. M. D. Rankin, Simeon Hackley, Albert James, Mrs. William Gould, Mrs. C. E. Gould, Miss Sarah H. Gould, Dr. L. T. Haines, Mrs. Rachel Haines, Edward Lamb and wife, N. P. Clark and wife, Sarah G. Clark, James Harkness and Dorcas Hackley. Dr. L. T. Haines and Simeon Hackley were elected deacons for two years, and Albert James, clerk and treasurer. A communication was received from Mr. Charles Merriam, of Springfield, Massachusetts, one of the publishers of "Webster's Dictionary," enclosing a donation to the church of \$300, on the sole condition that the clerk should each year send him a report of the condition of the church and congregation. The money was accepted and the church was named Merriam Congregational church of Loda, but for several years the report was not sent. After a few years Mr. Uriah Copp was elected clerk, and learning the delinquency in this matter, the church, like the prodigal, came to itself, and began sending the annual statements, which were acknowledged by Mr. Merriam by remittances of from \$20 to \$50 for the Sabbath school.

Rev. A. L. Rankin acted as minister for one year from January 1, 1858. N. P. Clark was elected deacon in 1858. Rev. William Gould succeeded Mr. Rankin for two years. The church was built in 1859 and 1860; it is 32×50, and cost \$1,500. The Sabbath school was commenced in 1859, with Mr. Gould as superintendent. For sixteen years Mr. Copp has superintended this school, and has brought the energy, tact and spirit to the work which has characterized his labors in other spheres.

It numbers about 125, with nine teachers. It has 500 volumes in its library, besides in a spirit of missionary enterprise furnishing five prairie schools with libraries. Thus has the moderate contributions of Mr. Charles Merriam borne fruit which is of inestimable value.

Organizing the Methodist church was largely due to the ministerial efforts of Father Dunham and Rev. Thomas Cotton. The latter sends, at the request of the writer, from his present home at Purdy, western Tennessee, the following reminiscences, which should find place here:

"In response to your request for some items of information concerning the organization of Methodist churches in Iroquois county, and my share in the work, I will endeavor to give a few facts in a plain, brief manner, presuming that there are some who yet remember me, and to whom they may be of interest.

"I was appointed to Middleport circuit in the fall of 1857, when it extended up the river to the Indiana state line, and included Bunkum (or Iroquois), and extended south to beyond Milford. Ash Grove had previously belonged to the charge, but was then separated. One of the most prominent and popular of my predecessors was Rev. W. J. Giddings. . . . Then were formed those strong attachments which continue to this day, and have caused my family to regard Iroquois county as their loved home. Among those who aided me in my work I must make mention of J. H. Empre, D. Fry, the Hogle Bros. (though not members of the church), and the venerable George Vennum, Hon. Samuel Williams, William Garner, and the late Jesse Eastburn. In September, 1859, I was appointed to Loda, then a new and weak work, with but a handful of members, and with neither church nor parsonage. The society was, I believe, organized by Rev. Jacob Horn, then pastor at Ash Grove, who died at Old Middleport a short time since. My immediate predecessor at Loda was the venerable Ella Dunham, then a recent immigrant from New England, a worthy exponent of Puritan spirit.

"During my two years at Loda we were favored with some revivals, the work was established on a more independent and permanent basis, and a parsonage erected in the western part of town. In the advancement of the church at Loda I was greatly aided by the zeal, firmness and devotion of brother E. D. Hall, afterward a minister in the Central Illinois conference, and now of Providence conference. [An extract from this interesting letter, referring to the work at Buckley, will be found under that head.] The second year of my pastoral labors closed my four-years residence in that county. I can only allude to my removal to Pontiac, to my two-years service in the army as chaplain, to five-years itineracy in Woodford county, and my more

than ten-years labor in the southern field. My present charge embraces a large scope of country, including the historic battle-field of Shiloh and the vicinity of Corinth, Mississippi.

“With best wishes for the success of your enterprise,

“I remain, dear sir, yours truly,

THOS. COTTON.”

During most of its history the Loda church has been served by the same preachers who labored at Buckley. The church was built during Mr. Collins' ministerial labors in 1864 and 1865. It is 32×50 and cost about \$2,000. The Sabbath school was organized with Mr. Amos Ford, who now resides at Normal, as first superintendent. S. E. Hitchcock and Joseph Hobbs have been his successors. The membership is about sixty.

The Roman Catholic church was first gathered here about 1870, under the ministration of Father Fanning, priest-in-charge in Gilman, now of Fairbury. Mr. Fanning has been the leader in collecting most of the congregations of his faith through this strip of territory, from Chenoa to the state line. He was followed by Fathers Bloome and Van Schwadler. The church was built in 1874. It is 26×44, and cost about \$2,000. Father Cahill was first resident priest. The parish includes Loda, Rankin, Gibson city and Melvin, and embraces about 250 families. The priest usually holds service in each point one Sabbath. Father Martin F. Kelley, who is now in charge of the parish, was born in Brooklyn, New York, and educated there and at the Seminary of Our Lady of Angels, at Niagara Falls. He has but recently arrived here, and is giving promise of great efficiency in the important field which is given into his charge by the church.

The Abraham Jonas Lodge, No. 316, A.F. and A.M., was instituted October 5, 1859, with the following charter members: L. T. Haines, W.M.; R. D. Foster, S.W.; J. D. Mick, J.W.; Moses Wilcox, Joshua Huestis, D. G. McMillen, T. H. Swain, William Wilson, Geo. Delker and E. G. Harrington. The following have, in turn, served as masters of the lodge: L. T. Haines, R. D. Foster, E. G. Harrington, J. T. Weir, W. H. Bradley, T. H. Swain, T. N. Boue. Lodge meets first and third Mondays of each month, and numbers twenty-one. The present officers are: T. N. Boue, W.M.; F. B. Coleman, S.W.; Dan. Healey, J.W.; Fred Veder, treasurer; W. H. Bradley, secretary; C. W. Long, S.D.; James Baxter, J.D.; George Delker, S.S.; T. D. Healey, J.S.; L. S.; Kelch, tiler.

A lodge of Odd-Fellows was in operation some years, but the charter has been surrendered.

The Spring Grove Lodge, No. 411, I.O.G.T., was organized February 25, 1861, with Uriah Copp, Jr., Rev. Thomas Cotton and forty-



eight others as charter members. Mr. Copp was the first worthy chief, a position which he has filled for much of the time of its existence. The lodge has never omitted to send its quarterly report to the Grand Lodge since it was instituted, and has been in good working condition all the time. It has taken the lead in all temperance efforts, and has done more to educate the people to vote against licensing dram-shops, than any and all other temperance efforts combined. It has organized several other lodges in this part of the county, and has been the center from which temperance light has shed its rays in all directions. The present membership is seventy-five. The present officers are: T. N. Boue, P.W.C.T.; Addison Curtis, W.C.T.; Allie Archer, W.V.T.; U. Copp, Jr., W. Sec.; J. S. Sheldon, W.F.S.; Minnie Carrington, W.T.; George Kinsman, W.M.; Mary Middleton, W.G.; Harry Rowley, W. Sent.; Lydia Van Hise, W. Chap.; Carry Carrington, Asst. Sec.; Miss L. Hungerford, R.H.S.; Fannie Sheldon, D.M., J. S. Sheldon, L.D.

The school at Loda is graded to four departments—primary, intermediate, grammar and high-school. It is under charge of W. D. Gardner, formerly of Gilman, with three assistants: Miss Emma Standard, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hobbs. The average attendance is about 160. Pupils are taken through all the higher branches taught in the public schools of this state, and the ancient languages are optional. The school year is nine months.

#### INCORPORATION.

In pursuance of a call signed by twenty-three citizens, a meeting was held at Dare's hotel, June 27, 1863, to vote for or against incorporation. Of these twenty-three, only J. Huestis, A. S. Austin, Jr., W. H. Bradley and A. Goodell, are here now. The meeting voted unanimously in the affirmative. W. R. Smith acted as chairman, and Uriah Copp, Jr., as clerk. July 6, an election was held for five trustees; thirty-seven votes were cast, and the following were elected: A. D. Southworth, J. T. Bullard, George Shafer and A. J. Hammond. On organizing, A. D. Southworth was chosen president, and Lewis Lyon, clerk. The boundaries of the town were fixed to include all of the original town of Loda, and all the additions which had been platted. A. D. Southworth was appointed police magistrate, and Uriah Copp, Jr., was selected by the board to fill the position of president, thus made vacant. This incorporation was under the general act then in vogue, and soon after a special charter was obtained, which somewhat enlarged the powers of the board. September 1, 1873, the town voted to accept the general act for the government of villages, passed

in 1872. The present officers are: Frederick Veder, president; John Madix, D. V. B. Holcomb, T. G. Butter and W. H. Copp, trustees; Volney Weaver, clerk; William Weaver, police magistrate; A. Goodell, treasurer. For some years license was granted for the sale of liquors, but more recently the views of the temperance party have prevailed, and license is not granted.

The first paper published in Loda, or in this part of the county, was started by Gov. D. S. Crandall, in 1856—"The Garden State." It was an independent, six-column paper, devoted to local interests, literature and home affairs. It was never considered a great success in a financial point of view, but was published because its proprietor had long been in the editorial harness, and could not content himself, when coming to a new country, to be without a newspaper of his own. Its publication continued for four years.

The "Loda Independent" was published by Mr. Wolf in 1866, for one year, after which he went to LeRoy, in McLean county.

Mr. Rathbun published the "News" for two years, commencing in 1872.

The "Register," edited by Dr. J. C. Dunham, has been published for five years, and the "Times," edited by Volney Weaver, is in its first year.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

Fredrick Veder, farmer, section 31, was born in New York, April 21, 1815, and moved to Milwaukee in 1836, and stayed there till 1841. He was married, in 1855, to Emily Stark; she, too, was born in New York. They are the parents of five children, three living: Peter, Angel and Tilla. The deceased are: Frederick and Harrison. Mr. Veder has almost retired from active business life. He helped to raise recruits for the Mexican war. He was for several years engaged in building and running canal-boats, at which business he was very successful. He is a man well respected in the community in which he lives. He is a democrat, and in religion a liberal. He owns 340 acres of good land in this township.

Hon. Addison Goodell, banker, Oakalla, the subject of this sketch, and whose portrait appears in this work, is probably as widely and favorably known as any citizen of Iroquois county. He is a native of Lake county, Ohio, where he was born July 16, 1822, and is the son of N. P. and Hannah M. (Griswold) Goodell. His early life was spent at farming, he being fortunate enough, however, to have received a good academic education. He began at the age of seventeen years to teach school, which he followed as an occupation for about six years, during which time he taught a private school in Louisville,

Kentucky, for about two years. After giving up teaching he engaged in the lumber trade, making Painesville, Ohio, his headquarters. This business he became so far interested in as to have several vessels coasting on Lake Erie, which were loaded with lumber at different ports in Ohio, Michigan and Canada, and destined for an eastern market. In 1855 he came to Illinois, and in July of that year located at Loda. Having disposed of his business in Ohio he again began the lumber trade in Loda. This, however, in a few years he gave up, as he had become interested in the real-estate business, and in the negotiating of loans in farm securities for eastern capitalists. These two branches have mostly occupied his attention since he has been a resident of Iroquois county, though in 1856 he began a banking business, which he has since continued. The building up of the town of Loda has been due mainly to his efforts, as churches, schools and all public institutions have received from him very liberal donations, and a generous support. He may have been actuated through motives of policy to have been thus anxious for the prosperity of the village, as he has been very extensively interested in real-estate in the vicinity, but his generosity as well as leniency having been thoroughly tested in hundreds of other instances, would belie the assertion. He has never sought political preferment, but being a stanch republican, in 1861 he was elected a member of the legislature, and in 1870 was chosen by the people as a member of the Illinois constitutional convention from the district of which Iroquois county is a part. Again, in 1871 and 1872, he was called upon to represent the people of Iroquois county in the state legislature. This is the extent of his political career except several home offices in Loda township. As a loan agent, Mr. Goodell has been generous, even to his own disadvantage and pecuniary loss; yet his career in this respect has abundantly demonstrated the truth of the old axiom that "honesty is the best policy." Left in early manhood to his own exertions in the building up of an honorable name and reputation, as well as in the accumulation of property, he chose an honest and straightforward course of doing business, which, in almost all instances, has been conducive to his success. Choosing rather to sacrifice property than his good name and credit, he has during the past "hard times" met with some loss of property. His financiering ability has been put to the test, as in 1873 he owned about 2,000 acres of land, which rapidly began to depreciate in value. In addition to this, during the hard times from 1873 to 1879, he had stood as mediator between eastern capitalists and unfortunate farmers of the west, who through him had borrowed over a million of dollars. The capitalists found his statements true in every particular in cases of



distress, and the farmers found him to be a true friend, as in every case possible he gained a reduction of interest-rates or an extension of time. As a consequence, both parties have learned to place in him the most implicit confidence, which to him is prized more than wealth. Thus through adversity as well as prosperity he has pursued an honorable course, which has established for him a name, a reputation and a credit not easily to be won. In 1851, while a resident of Ohio, Mr. Goodell was married to Miss Jane H. Warren, who was born in Rensselaer county, New York, in 1830. They are the parents of four children now living: Frances M., Warren, N. P., and Bertha.

C. O. Barstow, real-estate dealer and farmer, Loda, was born March 7, 1820, in Massachusetts, and is the oldest son of Charles and Alice Barstow (deceased). He married Almira A. Stanard, of Connecticut, September 6, 1846. She was born October 12, 1822. They have one child, Charles E., who was born June 6, 1848. Mr. Barstow came to Loda in 1855, and built the first store and sold the first goods in the place. He has held the offices of justice of the peace and postmaster. His early advantages for education were the common schools, etc. He is a republican in politics, and in religion a Materialist.

Samuel Lees, farmer and stock-dealer, Loda, owns 400 acres of excellent farming land, with good buildings, 280 acres of which is in the home farm, one and a half miles northeast of Loda. He was born in Pennsylvania, July 10, 1831, and spent his boyhood days on the farm until eighteen years of age. He learned the blacksmith trade, which he continued to follow until within the last twelve years. He came to this state in 1855, and settled in Mercer county, and remained there six years. He then went to Iowa, where he lived until he came to this county. He enlisted in the late war, in 1862, in Co. H, 134th Penn. Vol., and served ten months. He was in the battles of Shepherdstown, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and several others. He was married in Pennsylvania, June 19, 1862, to Nancy J. Hoge, who was born in Ohio, September 22, 1833. They are the parents of five children, four living: James B., born April 6, 1863; Francis E., born April 25, 1868; Essie H., born September 9, 1870, and Minnie C., born July 22, 1871; and one infant, deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Lees both belong to the Congregational church. Mr. Lees is considered one of the influential citizens of Iroquois county.

William H. Bradley, merchant, Oakalla, was born in Lake county, Ohio, December 19, 1836, and is the son of Joseph and Delia M. (Mills) Bradley. His early life was spent at farming. In 1857, when twenty-one years old, he came west and located at Loda. Though brought up on a farm and having but little knowledge of mercantile



*Addison Goodell*

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pursuits, he sought and gained employment in the capacity of clerk in the store of C. O. Barstow, with whom he remained in that capacity for three years. He then bought the business, and became Mr. Barstow's successor. He continued doing a general mercantile business until 1866, when he sold out and accepted the position of United States revenue agent, being located while in this business at the large distillery then in operation at Loda. In 1871 he quit the employ of the government, and again embarked in the mercantile trade, which business he has since continued. He is occupying a favorably located building, in size 24×80 feet, two floors, all of which room is well stocked with a general line of goods. The accumulation of a fair property and the building up of a good business have been the result of his own energy and industry. Mr. Bradley was married, November 3, 1862, to Miss Laura A. Southworth, who was born in Oneida county, New York, in 1837. They have three children living: William H., Carrie F. and Elouise.

T. J. Healey, grain-dealer, Oakalla, is another of the stirring business men of Loda. He was born in Livingston county, New York, November 28, 1851. In 1857, when still a child, he came west with his people, his father locating at Loda, where T. J. spent his early life attending the schools of that place, and later taking a very thorough course at the Normal University. At eighteen years of age he began teaching, and for about three years was engaged in that business in Loda and vicinity. In 1875 he became his father's successor in the coal trade, to which he added agricultural implements, and also engaged in the grain trade. In each of these three branches of trade he is now doing quite an extensive business. He is now holding the office of town clerk, and is filling his second term of office as police magistrate. In 1876, on November 28, he was married to Miss Florence Curtis, of Painesville, Ohio. They have by this union but one child, Miss Bessie L. Though a young man, Mr. Healey has taken an active part in all matters relating to the general welfare of the public, and especially to the people of Loda, who have already recognized in him both ability and honesty, and have, as a consequence, placed him in such responsible positions as could be bestowed by their ballots.

Henry Alvey, farmer, Oakalla, section 22, was born in England, September 3, 1833. His father was a glove-maker. Mr. Alvey assisted his father in carrying on the trade until he came to America, in 1848. He came to this county in 1857, and settled near where he now resides. He was married in 1855 to Sarah A. Dunham. They are the parents of six children, three living. Mr. Alvey has held the office of school director and road master. Mrs. Alvey's father was one of the first

Methodist preachers in this township. He established the first Methodist church in Loda. Mr. Alvey is a republican, and in religion a Methodist. He owns 40 acres of fine farm land, worth \$45 per acre.

Edward Olmsted, farmer, Oakalla, section 32, was born in Connecticut, May 27, 1822. He came to this state in 1857, and settled on his present farm. His chances for an education were fair. He was married in Connecticut, in 1850, to Lydia W. Dunham, who was born in Connecticut, July 18, 1825. They have two children by this union: Isadora T., born in 1852, now wife of John H. Harwood, of Topeka, Kansas; and Edward D., born March 16, 1856. Mr. Olmsted is of English descent, and is well respected in the neighborhood where he resides. He is a republican, and his religious views are Methodist.

Henry Weaver, Jr., hotel and restaurant keeper, Oakalla, was born in Wayne county, New York, April 20, 1836, and is the son of Henry Weaver, Sr., who is also a native of New York, and who was born November 8, 1798, and is now residing with the subject of this sketch. When Henry Weaver, Jr., first came to Illinois he settled in Kane county, and remained there but a short time, and then removed to Iroquois county, where for about ten years he was engaged in farming. This period includes the time spent in the army, which he entered as a volunteer during the rebellion of 1861-5. He enlisted, in 1861, in Co. F, 8th Ill. Cav., three-years service, Gov. Beveridge being his captain. He remained in the service about eight months, and was discharged at Alexandria on account of disability. After leaving the farm he accepted the position of station baggage-master for the Illinois Central railroad, and for about twelve years continued in their employ, during which time he was located at Loda. In November, 1878, he quit the railroad and engaged in keeping a hotel and restaurant, in which business he is still engaged. Mr. Weaver was married to Miss Harriet M. Price. They have had seven children, five of whom are living: Abram H., Percy L., Edith, Gertrude and Freddie. The deceased were Bertha and George.

Frederick Kemp, farmer and stock-dealer, Oakalla, was born in Maryland, July 10, 1816, and has followed the occupation of farmer through life. His chances for an education were poor. He went to the old style log school-house, with a fire-place reaching across one end, greased paper for window glass, and clap-board door. He came to this state in 1855, and settled near Champaign. He remained there four years, and then came to this county. Mr. Kemp has held the office of township treasurer four years, and trustee one term, and this office he still holds. He was married in Ohio, April 12, 1838, to Hannah A. Johnson. She was born in 1816. They are the parents of four chil-

dren, three living: John D., Bartley E. and William J. The deceased was Luther. Mr. Kemp is a well-to-do farmer, and respected in the neighborhood in which he resides. He owns 100 acres of good land in this township.

Robert McFarland, farmer, Oakalla, owns 86 acres of well improved farm land, worth \$50 per acre. He was born in Ireland, March 26, 1832. He remained on the farm until fourteen years of age, when he commenced clerking for a grain-dealer. He came to America in 1857, and stopped in Ohio two years. He then came to this state, settling in Iroquois county in 1859, and clerked six years in Loda, then went to farming. He has held the office of school director, school trustee and assessor. Mr. McFarland is of Scotch descent. He was married in New York, in 1861, to Ellen McClelland. She was born in Ireland. They are the parents of three children: Mary J., William A., and Martha E. He is a republican in politics, and in religion a Presbyterian.

John Marvin, farmer and stock-dealer, Oakalla, was born in Indiana, November 4, 1833. He was brought up a farmer, which occupation he has followed through life. His chances for an education were limited. He came to this county in 1860, and settled where he now resides. Mr. Marvin has held the office of supervisor for four years, school trustee for two years, and school director twenty years. Mr. Marvin was married in Indiana, February 4, 1854, to Margaret Newlin, who was born in Indiana, December 25, 1835. They have by this union seven children, six living: William, Jesse, Emma, Edward, Ella and Eliza. The deceased was Charles, who was drowned in 1874. Mr. Marvin is known as one of the most influential citizens of Iroquois county. He is a republican, and as regards religion is a Materialist. He owns 218 acres of fine land in this township.

W. S. Hawk, proprietor of the Reed House, of Loda, and one among the older class of citizens of the town, was born in Erie county, Pennsylvania, October 25, 1829, and is the son of Erastus and Amanda (Parker) Hawk, both natives of the state of Vermont. His life was spent on a farm until the age of sixteen years. He was then placed in the position of turnkey, under his uncle, in the jail of Erie county, Pennsylvania. This position he held three years, and then accepted the position of baggage-master on the New York & Erie railroad. This position he held for six years, when he quit railroading and came west, stopping at La Porte, Indiana, for about three years. In 1862 he started on a trip farther west, his destination being Pike's Peak, Colorado, but after having spent about six months in traveling over the western prairies he returned east as far as Illinois and located in



Loda, where he has since resided. Mr. Hawk has been twice married: first in Indiana, in 1858, to Miss Henrietta Reed, who was also a native of Pennsylvania, and who was born in 1839. Her death occurred in 1868. His second marriage was to Miss Cornelia Dean, a native of New York city, in 1876. She was born May 17, 1854. By the first marriage he has three children: Jay D., Eddie and Clara. Mr. Hawk is keeping the only hotel of Loda, and it is a large three-story house, well furnished and nicely managed. The building, and also the grounds attached, which are quite extensive, belong to him, all of which are the result of his own energy and industry.

Samuel McCracken, farmer and stock-raiser, Loda, was born in Ireland in 1820. He was brought up to the occupation of a farmer, which occupation he has followed successfully through life. He came to America in 1851, and settled in Massachusetts a short time, then went to Pennsylvania. After remaining a short time he came to this state in 1863, and settled where he now resides, one and a half miles northeast of Loda. He is a good farmer, and handles some cattle, hogs and sheep. He was married in Pennsylvania, in 1857, to Margaret Galo, who was born in Pennsylvania. They have had six children by this union, five living. In politics he is a republican, and his religious views are Presbyterian. His parents were natives of Ireland, and were of Scotch descent. He owns 320 acres of fine land in this township.

T. B. Kinsman, blacksmith, Oakalla, was born in England, June 24, 1827. His early life was spent at farming. At the age of nineteen years he began learning the trade of a blacksmith, this having been his business through life. In 1832 he left England and settled in Canada, where he remained until 1865. He then came to the state of Illinois and located at Loda, which has since been his home. He was married in 1850, while in Canada, to Miss Harriet Cotton, a native of England. They are the parents of eleven children, eight living: Sarah, wife of F. Stroup; Thomas, William, George, Silas, Charles, Gertrude and Minnie. The deceased were: Louisa, Frankie and Freddie. Mr. Kinsman has recently become quite extensively interested in farming, he now having 320 acres of land under cultivation. This work is carried on mainly by his sons, while he attends to the smithing. When he came to Illinois in 1865 he was offered a good position in the shops of the Illinois Central railroad, but preferring to draw his family away from the many temptations of the city, he became a resident of Loda. In politics he is a republican. He is a member of the A.F. and A.M., and of the M. E. church, and a man whose reputation for honesty has been earned by honorable deeds.

W. L. Kinsman, salesman, Oakalla, is one of the energetic young men of Loda. He is a native of Canada, where he was born November 18, 1857. In 1865 he came to Loda with his parents, where he continued his studies, in which he had made very rapid progress in Canada. For about eight years he continued to attend school, in which time he secured a good education. For a short time after leaving school he was engaged in the grain trade, but giving that up he began as salesman in one of Loda's prominent business houses, in which he has since continued. April 24, 1879, he was married to Miss Louise J. Stroup, who is a native of Illinois. In his political views Mr. Kinsman is a republican. He is a member of the Congregational church, and withal a young man of good morals, good habits and a good reputation.

T. N. Boue, physician and surgeon, Oakalla, was born in Fountain county, Indiana, May 18, 1837, and is the son of L. D. and Eleanor (Moffette) Boue. He received his literary education at the academies of Waveland and Ladoga, after which he began the study of medicine under Dr. J. Adkins, of Covington. He attended the Rush Medical College of Chicago, during the winter of 1863-4. Again, in 1865-6, he took a second course at the same college, from which he graduated in the spring of 1866, after which he located at Loda and began a regular practice. He has had good success, establishing an extensive and lucrative practice. The doctor is a member of Mount Olivet Commandery, A.F. and A.M., No. 38, of Paxton; Ford Chapter, No. 138, of Paxton; and the Blue Lodge, of Loda, No. 316. June 3, 1867, he was married to Miss Effie L. Burnette, now deceased. She was a native of Ohio, born in 1842, and died September 29, 1875.

Joseph Holmes, farmer, Oakalla, section 26, was born in New Jersey, November 20, 1819. He was raised in the city. His chances for an education were limited. He came to this state in 1835 with his father, who settled in Putnam county. He remained there until 1846, and then went to Henry. He came to this county in 1868 and settled on his present farm. Mr. Holmes has held the office of supervisor of township two terms, and assessor two terms. He is at present commissioner of roads. He was married in Putnam county, this state, in 1846, to Miss Avis F. Taylor. She was born in Massachusetts, May 21, 1825. They had ten children by this union, six living: Sarah, wife of C. Weaver, of Pigeon Grove township; Ella, Mary, J. H., Asa M., Samuel J. The deceased were: Ruth, Benjamin, Jennie and John L. Mr. Holmes is one of the solid men of Iroquois county. He and his accomplished lady are both Swedenborgians. He is a republican in politics.

B. F. Price, express agent, Loda, is the fourth son of William and Jane G. Price, who are the parents of eight children, one daughter and seven sons, all born in Broome county, New York. They moved to this county in 1860. Menette married Henry Weaver, of this place. Joseph C., George A., B. F. and John D. are still living, and are a credit to their very much respected parents. B. F. was born in New York, May 12, 1843, and was a farmer until August of 1862, when he enlisted in Co. M, 9th Ill. Vol. Cav. He served three years, and was in several skirmishes and one battle, at Guntown, Mississippi, in which he received a gun-shot wound in the left arm, which arm had to be amputated June 13, 1864. He has held the office of town collector twelve years, deputy sheriff ten years, constable ten years, and express agent twelve years. He was married in this state in 1867, to Olive Major, who was born in Indiana in 1843. They have by this union had two children: Addie A., born October 31, 1868; and Major, born December 30, 1873. All of the above are republicans, and all liberals.

John B. Taylor, farmer, Oakalla, section 22, was born in Tennessee, November 5, 1825. He has followed the occupation of a farmer successfully through life. He moved with his father to this state when but two years of age, and settled in Pike county. He staid there twenty-five years, and in 1869 came to this county and settled where he now lives. He was married to Mary Gregory, who was born in this state November 9, 1832. They are the parents of seven children, six living: Joel, David, Martha, Lizzie, Mary and Warren. Mr. Taylor's father died when he was but three years old, therefore he has been obliged to make his way through the world unaided. He now owns 360 acres of good land in this township. He is a republican, and a member of the Christian church.

David Burnham, hay-dealer, Oakalla, was born in Warren county, New York, December 29, 1828, and is the son of John and Ruth (Trumbell) Burnham, both natives of New York. His occupation for many years was farming. In 1861 he entered Co. A, 93d N. Y. Vol. Inf., three-years service, as second lieutenant. He remained in the service about two years, and then resigned and returned to New York state, where he raised a company for the 175th N. Y. Vol., and again entered the service, this time as first lieutenant of Co. G, three-years service. In a short time he was promoted to quartermaster of the 175th, and remained in the service until August of 1865. In 1870 he came to Illinois and located at Loda, where for about nine years he has been engaged in baling and shipping hay to New Orleans, shipping usually about 1,000 tons per year. In 1871 he was married to



Mrs. Mary C. Knapp, daughter of Watt C. Bradford, of Memphis, Tennessee. She owned at the time of the marriage quite an extensive property in Loda and vicinity. By this union they have four children: John D., Edward, Ruth and Roy. Mr. Burnham is and has been an honorable and straightforward business man, by which course he has won the confidence and respect of the community.

P. G. Hollister, farmer, Oakalla, section 24, was born in New York, September 19, 1834, and was raised a farmer. He came to this state in 1870. Mr. Hollister enlisted, in 1861, in the 1st Mo. Eng. Corps, and served three years. He was in no battles of any consequence. He did picket duty most of the time. He was married in Illinois, November 29, 1866, to Emma Carr, who was born July 28, 1849. Their children are: Ross O., born September 28, 1874; and Grace, born February 6, 1875. Mr. Hollister is considered one of Iroquois county's honored and energetic citizens. In politics he is a republican, and his religious views are liberal.

Joseph Adams, farmer, Oakalla, was born in England, October 18, 1829. He was raised on a farm until fourteen years of age, and then learned the carpenter's trade, at which he worked seven years, and in 1852 came to America. He settled in Chicago, where he remained until 1870; he then went to California, where he remained six months. He was married in Chicago, in 1857, to Sarah Vogwill, who was born in England, October 8, 1829. They have had seven children, five living: Asa, Charles, Harry, Eva and Ida. The names of the deceased are Charles and Mary. Mr. Adams has held the office of school director for five years. His parents were natives of England.

Hiram L. Swick, farmer, Oakalla, was born in New York, May 14, 1839. He was brought up a farmer, and this occupation he has followed through life. He enlisted in the late war, and went forward to battle for his country. He enlisted, in 1862, in Co. E, 113th Ill. Vol. Inf., and was in the battles of Chickasaw Mountain, Arkansas Post and a number of skirmishes. He served until the close of the war. He was married in this state, in 1873, to Ida M. Oaks, who was born in Chicago. They are the parents of three children: Willie, Frankie and an infant, deceased. Mr. Swick came to this county in 1875. He is a republican in politics. He owns 80 acres of land under good cultivation.

D. C. Hull, farmer, Oakalla, was born in New York, December 9, 1850, and was reared a farmer, which occupation he has since followed, with the exception of four years while working on the railroad as a brakeman. In 1852 his father removed to this state, at which time our subject was two years old. The family resided in La Salle county

for two years, and then for twenty-three years in Grundy county. In 1875 Mr. Hull came to Iroquois county and settled where he now resides, one mile west of Loda. In 1873 he was married to Elizabeth D. Wilson, of Grundy county, who was born in this state in 1842. They have three children: Fannie, Samuel and Jennie. Mr. Hull is an industrious and enterprising man. In politics he is a republican.

J. C. Dunham, editor of "Register," Oakalla, was born in Connecticut, July 13, 1831. His early chances for an education were good, and he improved them to the best advantage. He spent the early part of his life in various portions of New England, and came to this state in 1861, settling finally in Loda in 1876. For several years he practiced dentistry. He first edited a paper called the "Iroquois Democrat." He commenced the "Register" in 1876. The paper is well sustained in both subscription and advertising. Mr. Dunham has been twice married; first in 1857 to Harriet McBurney, who was born in Canada. His first wife dying in 1877, he again married, in June, 1879, this time to Lizzie J. Knapp, who was born in Tennessee, December 25, 1861. Mr. Dunham has held the office of justice of the peace two terms. He is a member of the Masonic order.

Earl Barrett, farmer, Oakalla, was born in Massachusetts in 1835. He was raised a farmer, and this occupation he has followed through life. His chances for an early education were fair. In 1859 he came west and settled in Bureau county, this state, where he remained eleven years. He then went to Lee county and remained one year, and afterward went to Ford county, where he staid seven years. In the latter county, in 1877, he was married to Mary J. Johnson, who was born in New York in 1857. Mr. Barrett has held the office of road commissioner two years, and chairman of the committee for the destruction of the Canadian thistle two years. He is a republican, and a Baptist. He is a well-to-do farmer, well respected in the neighborhood in which he resides. He owns 160 acres of fine farm land, three miles east of Loda.

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## DANFORTH TOWNSHIP.

During most of its political existence, Danforth was a portion of Douglas township. Two years ago it was erected into a separate township. It consists of a parallelogram, four miles wide by thirteen long, having the northern two-thirds of townships 27, ranges 10 and 11 east of the third principal meridian, and 14 west of the second principal meridian.

About 1852, A. H. Danforth and George W. Danforth, of Washington, Tazewell county, formed a copartnership to buy land, which was about to be thrown on the market again, after having been withdrawn to give the Central railroad an opportunity to make selections under the law which organized that company. Between 1854 and 1860 they entered from the government or bought of the railroad company nearly 50,000 acres of land, a large body of which lay in what is now Danforth township, and the remainder in the townships north and south of it. They at once set about making it available. George W. soon after came here and made it his home, devoting his time to improving and selling farms. A great deal of the land was wet, that is, too wet for cultivation at all seasons, but a glance at the map will show, what Mr. Danforth's practical eye discovered, that streams run in all directions from it. The Iroquois lies off to the east of it, Laugham creek north, the streams running into Vermilion river flow from its western side, and the streams which flow into Spring creek, have their rise in the southern part of the town. With a soil of marvelous richness and depth, it was evident to him that good, thorough draining was all that was necessary to make this a garden spot in fertility and productiveness. It was just this system which he decided to follow, which was contemplated in the law which donated to the state the swamp and overflowed lands. Mr. Danforth believed that the Hollanders, who were accustomed to living on dykes and making canals in their home, would be a useful class of people to help on the work he had to do, and early sent to that country, and offered such inducements as brought a considerable number of them here, who became purchasers of his lands and laborers in his work. Much of the land he bought was not as dry as some of that which had been selected by the county as swamp lands. Wide, open ditches were made with the old-fashioned capstan ditcher, which was worked by oxen, but that would only work in the water. Something else must be used for making the ditches through dry land, or at those seasons of the year when the sloughs were dry. The Central Railroad Company thought the earth could be removed with a dredge, and tried it on some of their lands, but it would not work. They gave away the dredge and sold their lands. About sixty miles of ditch was made with the old capstan machine. Mr. Danforth afterwards used the Tobias machine, which is worked by direct draught, and finally used the Wauchope grader. The work has been done systematically and understandingly. In the thorough grading of the highways, an eye has been continually turned toward the effectiveness of the road-ditches and drains, and



have thus supplemented the wider ones which have been made as mains. Under the law of the state, which was passed to aid just such works as this, and which was afterwards declared unconstitutional, provision was made for forcing drains through other lands, and assessing the benefits on such lands as were benefited. Under this law the large ditches were constructed, and though the law was overthrown by the supreme court, such decision did not close up the ditches themselves. The act which was passed in 1879 is condemned as being too complicated to be operative. The people are sorely in want of a simple and effective drainage law, under which all these wet lands can be reclaimed. The main, running to Langham creek, is twenty feet wide and is nearly complete; those in other directions are somewhat smaller. For some years Mr. Danforth was not able to get railroad facilities here, and indeed for a time it seemed as though he did not need them. During the war this entire country was an immense hay-field. With here and there a small tilled field, all these acres were cut over, and the hay was sent forward into the valleys of the Mississippi, the Tennessee, and the Cumberland, to help put down the rebellion. In 1862 Mr. Danforth came here to reside, and in 1866 secured a side track and station, and a post-office soon after. The long, low red warehouse was the first building put up, and that and the building east of the track were built that year.

John Huizenga, a native of Holland, was at work on the Central road when it was building, in 1853, and his attention was called to the fertility of the soil here. He lived for some years in Marshall county. When treason raised her bloody head, and the boom of rebel cannon echoed and reëchoed through the country, awakening the slumbering millions to the sad but awful realities of deadly strife, he enlisted for Holland, and staid there till this cruel war was over. Returning here in 1866, in company with Mr. Heersema, he purchased and commenced making a farm. Through him and the generous advertising done by Mr. Danforth, some forty families arrived here within the next few years, and have made their strong impress felt on the soil and society of this community. Mr. Huizenga, after working a farm for some years, engaged in the grocery trade. These people display the same stolid determination, industry and perseverance which has so long marked them in their native land. Slow to conform to the habits of the country, but still quick to appreciate the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, they are recognized as some of the best farmers in the county. They are generally grain farmers, keeping a few cows and raising some live-stock, but none go into

cattle speculations or stall-feeding. Their women are abandoning their custom of doing field work to a great extent, but do not abandon the wooden shoe. Here, for the first time in Iroquois county, are seen stacks of these articles for sale in the stores, and instead of going out of use others are finding out that they are a very comfortable shoe for winter use. Inquiry, however, failed to elicit an opinion in their favor as a delight in very muddy times.

All except three of them are farmers, and nearly all are connected with the Dutch Reformed church. Two families are of the Baptist persuasion. They form a neighborhood of their own, living principally north and west of the village. They readily conform to American methods of farming, but carefully retain their personal and family habits. They are not teetotalers, either in belief or practice, but are scrupulously free from intemperance and social vices. They readily accept the boon of American citizenship, and are not averse to assuming the responsibility which that term implies. They have naturally attached themselves to the party which is in the ascendancy in the county, state and nation. Among other Dutch institutions introduced here was a wind-mill for grinding grain. In their native land, water privileges as understood here (i.e. water-power) are comparatively unknown, and before the advent of the steam-engine, wind-mills and the power of man and beast were the only mechanical powers known. Their mills are run by the peculiar shaped wind-mills which are familiar, so far as outward appearance is concerned, to every school child. The large arms are made about  $8 \times 30$  feet; and it is only necessary for the boy who reads this to recall how his kite, which was only about  $2 \times 4$  feet in size, pulls under a good stiff breeze, to imagine the tremendous force which these four monstrous fans will carry to the machinery below. This necessitates a very strong structure. The wind-mill frames, which are so common on stock farms all over the country, are puny things compared with the timbers of a Dutch mill. When once inside of one of them, the array of huge timbers slanting inward from a perpendicular position, braced and tied with girts and braces of heavy timber, is confusing to the strange eye. A peculiar and ingenious "governor" counteracts the unsteady action of the winds, and keeps a very steady motion in grinding, so that as good flour is made as by any other power. They have been introduced in various places in this country, but by the strange variations in nature, the winds have so disappeared that the proprietors have found it necessary to introduce steam-power of late years.

As early as 1869 they commenced holding religious services here

in their own language, in the school-house, under Mr. Duiker. The church was organized soon after, according to the polity of the denomination, by the election of two overseers: J. Schreveŋga and H. Heersema; and two deacons: J. D. Kingsens and K. K. Muller. In 1872 a neat church,  $30 \times 50$  feet, was erected at a cost of \$1,800, and a convenient two-story parsonage at a cost of \$1,200. These were erected on a lot of six acres of land, which was donated by Mr. Danforth for the purpose, just outside of that portion of the town plat which was laid out in blocks and lots for business and resident purposes. The generous disposition displayed by the proprietor, as well as the systematic business-like plan followed in all his doings here, is evinced in this arrangement and donation. Six acres of land, just outside a thriving little village, gives all the ground needed for any minister to spend all the time on he can spare from his study and pastoral labors, and the convenience of having the church located on it, and away from the business of the place, is advantageous.

After Rev. Mr. Duiker's pastorate, Rev. H. Hulst served the church two years; then Mr. Duiker again one year. Rev. J. Muelendyke is the present pastor. The church numbers nearly one hundred members. A Sabbath school is maintained through the year.

The Lutheran (St. John's) church commenced holding religious service in 1870, under the preaching of Rev. Mr. Johnsen. In 1873 the church was built, and a minister's house on a piece of ground similar to the other, and donated also by the proprietor of the town. At this time an organization was perfected according to the rules of Lutheran procedure. The following were elected trustees: R. Manson, R. Hasbergen, G. Ricken, H. Comack, F. Simons, H. Causon and F. Causon. The church is  $36 \times 50$  feet, and cost \$1,700. The minister's house is  $16 \times 30$  feet, and cost \$600. The church numbers about fifty. Rev. Wm. Thole served the church as minister three and a half years after the church was built, and Rev. G. M. Fischer is the present minister. A Sunday school has been kept up about eight months in the year, with about fifty scholars. A day school has been maintained, under the rules of the church, during a portion of the time.

In 1877, the people living in the northern part of Douglas township, believed that they had got strong enough to run their own concerns, and thought that their interests would be subserved by separate township organization. At their request the board of supervisors divided the township, which was, before the division, seven and a half miles wide, so that Danforth would be four miles



wide. It became a nice question how the assets and liabilities should be divided equitably. The officers of the two townships met and agreed to divide on the basis of the assessed value of the two. The valuation of Danforth being somewhat larger, slightly more than half of the assets were given her. One item of assets it was found difficult to divide. There was in the possession of the town of Douglas \$25,000 of stock in the Gilman, Clinton & Springfield Railroad Company, a defunct corporation, whose chartered rights still exist, but whose road had been purchased by the Illinois Central railroad, without assuming responsibility for its liabilities. This stock was in two certificates of \$12,500 each. It was agreed that Danforth should have one of these, and that the other should remain with Douglas, whose officers solemnly agreed, and made it a matter of record, that if Douglas ever received any dividends on said stock, the equitable portion thereof, which belonged to Danforth, should be forthwith honestly and faithfully turned over into the coffers of that town, without delay, distraint or commissions for collecting,—a generous offer which will be fully appreciated whenever it is fulfilled. The liabilities of the town, which consisted of \$25,000 of 10 per cent bonds which were issued to the said railroad, were divided on the same basis.

In 1878, at the first election of township officers, the following officers were elected: David Brunlack, supervisor; H. R. Danforth, clerk; L. A. Benjamin, assessor; Fred. Kohl, collector; H. A. Griswold, C. Davis and William A. Elliott, commissioners of highways; E. S. Schlegel, justice of the peace. In 1879, 139 votes were cast. John Overacker was elected collector; B. F. Vandolah, justice of the peace, and the other officials were reelected.

In 1873 the firm of A. H. Danforth & Co. was dissolved, George W. retaining the land, and Henry R. came here to represent the interests of his father and his own. The firm was a strong one both in the means at its disposal, and the business enterprise, skill and energy which its members brought to the management of this large business enterprise. Where so many others failed in attempts to manage large landed interests in this portion of the state, and saw their magnificent domains swept away by debts which they could not float, the Danforths have been successful to a degree beyond their own and their neighbors' expectations. They retain still about 5,000 acres of land, which is all under cultivation, their leases calling for either one-third or two-fifths of the crop, according to the location of the farm or its quality.

## DANFORTH VILLAGE.

The village of Danforth was laid out in 1872, on section 18 and the corner of section 17, which lay between that and the railroad; that portion near the station into blocks and lots, with out-lots for church, school and other purposes. The switch and side track had been put in, in 1865, and a station established soon after. Danforth has several very handsome residences, which make it, to the eye of the traveler passing through, one of the handsomest places in the county, and a desirable place for residence. Its two churches are described elsewhere. A fine brick block of three stores is a real adornment to the town.

## BIOGRAPHICAL.

Mrs. Hannah Barden, Gilman, was born in Genesee county, New York, July, 1815, and, with her husband, located on the edge of the timber in Danforth township, on October 9, 1840. Mr. Barden voted for Harrison for president as he came through Chicago. The nearest neighbor at that time was Mr. Simons, who lived sixteen miles off; and they had to go to Wilmington to mill, forty-five miles, and all their grain had to be hauled to Chicago. Mrs. Barden would for several days at a time be left all alone, with the wolves howling around the dwelling, and suffered all the privations incidental to pioneer life. She was married in 1836 and had three children: Mary Jane, born March 27, 1840; Newton E., born September 14, 1843; and Warren A., born August 1, 1851. Her husband died January 4, 1866. They lost their eldest boy (Newton) when eleven years old, August 27, 1852. Her farm of 160 acres is well improved and in a high state of cultivation, with good orchard and timber.

James Cloke, farmer, agricultural implement agent and insurance agent, Ashkum, one of the largest farmers here, and one of the oldest settlers in the county, settled in Ashkum township on section 36, twenty-four years ago (1856), at which time land was worth \$17.50 per acre. He is now fifty-six years of age. He was born in the county of Kent, England, in 1824, and sailed for America in the clipper ship London. They had rather a rough time, owing to boisterous weather, and sickness among the passengers, of whom there were 1,200 on board, eight or nine dying during the voyage, which occupied eight weeks. In addition to farming, he engaged largely in cattle raising, and herded all over this part of the county which was then all open, and for years he supplied wood for the cars, hauling it to where Ashkum now stands, employing fourteen teams and teamsters. In 1868 Mr. Cloke was married the third time. He

has a family of twelve children. In 1870 he moved to Danforth township, where he now resides and is engaged largely in agricultural pursuits on his large farm of 500 acres, which is well improved and in a high state of cultivation. The McCormick Manufacturing Company has had Mr. Cloke in their employ for over fourteen years as their agent in this neighborhood, and he does a large amount of business in their goods. He is also agent for the Continental Insurance Company in these parts.

Thomas James Johnston, farmer, Danforth, is a native of Ireland. He was born in Macherfelt, county of Londonderry, province of Ulster, in 1818, and followed farming there until 1844, when he departed for the United States. He lived in New York for a few years, and then returned to Ireland on a visit. On arriving in America the second time, he came west and settled in Kendall county, Illinois, in 1851, where he continued to reside until 1863, when he moved to Danforth township, in Iroquois county, and bought forty acres of land east of the railroad as a homestead. He herded his cattle on the surrounding prairie, which was nearly all unsettled. In the course of a few years the prairie began to be broken up, so that he had not sufficient pasture for his stock, so he sold out and moved west of the track to his present location, where he bought forty-five acres at \$8 per acre. At that time this part of the county was so wet that corn had to be shipped here to feed the stock. Mr. Johnston has been twice married, first to Miss Sarah Hughes in 1837, and in 1858 to Miss Isabella Aurtar, of Will county, this state. He has a family of nine children. He assisted Mr. John Wilson when surveying this part of the county, and was employed a good deal in ditching. To his original farm of forty-five acres, Mr. Johnston has kept adding as his means permitted, and now own 130 acres.

John W. F. Demoure, farmer, Piper city, one of the most enterprising farmers in the county, was born in Heilbronn, Würtemberg, Germany, in 1838, and came to the United States when he was nineteen years old, and came west, locating in Woodford county, Illinois. He remained there seven years, working on the farm, and came to Iroquois county in 1864, and entered the employment of Dr. Wilson, who owned a large tract of land in Ashkum township, known as the Wilson settlement, running a ditching machine and improving the farms. For a number of years he acted as foreman for Dr. Wilson, and finally went into farming on his own account, buying land in Danforth township and in Ford county adjoining, to which he has kept adding as his means permitted, and now owns 400 acres: 80



in Danforth, Iroquois county, and 320 in Ford county. The homestead, which is in Danforth township, consists of a handsome farmhouse, story and a half, with kitchen attached, surrounded with a large grove and ornamental shade-trees; cribs, barn and other farm buildings, and good orchard. Mr. Demoure was married, May 12, 1866, in Ford county, and has now a family of eight children, all boys.

W. W. Gilbert, grain dealer, Danforth, was born in the city of Philadelphia, January 29, 1841, and moved west, coming to Danforth in 1864. He entered the employment of Mr. Danforth, with whom he remained for eight years; at the end of which time he commenced business on his own account in the grain trade, in which business he has been exceedingly successful, it having increased from 25,000 bushels the first to 100,000 this present year. February 22, 1870, Mr. Gilbert married Miss Foster, the result of which union is two children: Arthur, aged six years, and Jessie, aged one year. Mr. Gilbert owns the only grain warehouse in town, and is in fact the only one engaged in the business here. His warehouse has a capacity of 20,000 bushels. His residence, which has just been completed this winter, at a cost of \$7,000, is a handsome and commodious two-story structure, and is quite an ornament to the town. The main building is 54×22 feet, and the L's (one on each side) are 16×30 each.

Henry R. Danforth, banker, Danforth, was born at Washington, Illinois, on November 2, 1843, and received most of his education at Lombard College, Galesburg, finishing at the Commercial College, Chicago, in 1863. He came to Iroquois county in 1865, locating where the town of Danforth now stands, though at that time it was not in existence. For the first year he attended to land business, and in April, 1866, opened a store here, but at the start was not very successful, his receipts for the first month being only \$1.50. On November 2, 1865, he married Miss Mary E. Wenger, eldest daughter of Dr. Wenger, of Gilman, and have a family of three children, two girls and one boy. In 1873 Mr. Danforth commenced banking, and his business has steadily increased. In 1875 he erected a handsome residence in the village, at a cost of \$6,000. The building is cruciform in shape, two stories high. One arm is 26×61, the other 26×56, with a tasteful verandah around the south and east sides. The lot on which the building stands is 50×160 feet, beautifully laid out and planted with trees and shrubs, the whole surrounded with a neat picket-fence.

David H. Henman, one of the prominent farmers in this township,

Gilman, is a native of England, having been born in Bromham, Bedfordshire, England, in 1844. He engaged in agricultural pursuits on his father's farm, until 1868, when he came to the United States, sailing from Liverpool on one of the Cunard company's steamers. On arriving in this country Mr. Henman at once came west, locating in Danforth township, where, along with his brother, he kept bachelor's hall for some years. In 1877 he married Miss Emily Frusher, a young English lady. On settling here the country was entirely unimproved, there being no graded roads or ditches, while deer and wolves were often seen. His farm of 160 acres is now well improved, ditched and hedged, with a good house, farm buildings and a young orchard, and is in good shape for raising a crop in any kind of a season.

John W. Green, farmer, Gilman, was born in Devonshire, England, in 1826, and worked on the farm there until 1853, when he sailed for America in the ship Queen Victoria, bringing with him his wife, to whom he had been married in 1846. They met with many trials and vicissitudes on their voyage across the Atlantic, the wind being directly ahead of them during the entire trip, which occupied seven weeks and three days. On landing, Mr. Green located in New York, and worked there eight years, when seeing the advantages offered to industrious men in the west, he moved to Illinois, settling in La Salle county in 1861. Eventually seeing the great future in store for this township, he moved his family here in 1869 and bought 120 acres, being the south half of the southwest quarter, and the southwest quarter of southeast quarter of section 20, town 27, range 10 east of 3d principal meridian. When bought, the land was raw prairie, and one would hardly think that such a change could be effected in so short a time. The land is now all ditched and hedged. It has good meadows and pasture on it, a large story-and-half house, with a commodious L attached, large bearing orchard and grove, in fact one of the best farms on the prairie. The land is a very rich black loam, yielding large crops of all kinds of grain. Mr. Green had in his possession a pumpkin, which he raised last year without any extra care, which measured six feet and two inches in circumference, and weighed 113 pounds. His family, which is now grown up, consists of three children: William, the eldest, Elizabeth, and Helen Rebecca.

William A. Elliott, farmer, Gilman, came from Vermilion township, La Salle county, to this county, settling in Danforth township when he was twenty-two years of age. He was born in La Salle county in 1848, and has been engaged in farming all his life. In

1870 he married Miss Mary Isabella Galloway. They have two children: Harry aged seven, and Clara aged two and a half years. Mr. Elliott owns 160 acres of land, which at the time he came here was raw prairie, with no buildings upon it. Now it is all broke and under the plow, hedged and ditched, with good farm buildings upon it, and one of the handsomest farm houses on the prairie. The main building is 16×28 feet, two stories high, with stone basement, and a commodious one-story L, 26×26 feet. The farm is the result of his own labors and industry, having started with very little capital, except his own strong arms.

Edward Schegel, dealer in dry goods, groceries, hardware and tinware, Danforth, Illinois, was born in Weissenstein, province of Saxony, Germany, in the year 1840, and came to America in 1849, settling in La Salle county of this state. In 1868 he married Miss Jerusha Severence; and has one daughter, named Minnie, aged six years. He moved to Milks' Grove, in this county, 1875, and after two-years residence there, he came to this town in 1877, engaging in the dry-goods and grocery business, and also in hardware and tinware, doing a very large trade in each department. He occupies two large store rooms, each 60×20 feet, and also fills the office of postmaster.

Ambrose Moriarty, farmer, Danforth, was born in Canada in the year 1843, and moved to the United States, settling first in La Salle county, in this state, in 1867, where he engaged in farming and was very successful. In 1870 he married Miss Hill, of Ottawa, and has now four children: three boys and one girl. In 1876 he moved to Danforth township, and bought the north half of section seven in that town, on which he has since resided, engaging largely in agricultural pursuits. When purchased the land was raw prairie, and like the most of the land in this township was low and marshy, necessitating a large amount of ditching before there was any certainty of raising a crop. It is now all ditched and broke, and yields large crops in most any season. In addition to attending to his large farm, Mr. Moriarty runs a threshing machine and corn sheller, and is well patronized in each business.



## ASHKUM TOWNSHIP.

Ashkum is situated near the northwestern part of the county, having Milk's Grove and Chebanse north of it, the Iroquois river for its eastern boundary, Danforth on the south and Ford county on its west. It contains the southern four tiers of sections of townships, 28 north, ranges 10 and 11 east of the 3d principal meridian; range 14, and all that lies west of the river of range 13 west of the 2d principal meridian. It is sixteen miles long east and west, by four miles wide, and is little less than two congressional townships. The Illinois Central railroad runs across it a little east of its center, and has upon it the village which bears the name of the township. The land is generally beautifully undulating, and that lying near the river decidedly sandy, but rich and fertile. About the middle of town 28.10, lies one of the series of swamps which marks the head-waters of the Vermilion river, which was in the early times an impassable morass, but which has, by a system of ditches inaugurated by Messrs. Danforth, Milk and other large land-holders, very nearly disappeared. The law under which this work was done was afterward declared unconstitutional by the supreme court of the state, but that did not by any means tend to fill up the ditches which had been opened under it. The big ditch which was cut to drain the land south of here, and open communication with Langham creek, runs across this township near the center of range 10. North of this it is joined by the one which was cut to drain Milk's Grove.

Nearly all of the land in the western part of the township was purchased of the county, which held it under the act of congress for the disposal of swamp and overflowed lands, by Mr. George C. Tallman, a wealthy citizen of Utica, New York, under a scheme which was not entirely creditable to those having the matter in charge. It was afterward conveyed by Tallman to Dr. Wilson, of Washington, Tazewell county, Illinois, who retained much of it until his death about a year ago. He proceeded to improve, and his heirs still own sections 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 30 and 31 of range 10, and it would hardly be known as swamp land now.

When the Central railroad was built, all west of the timber-growth of the river was open prairie. In 1857 Mr. William M. Ross, a Scotchman by birth, but engaged in New York and Chicago in the dry-goods business, and well remembered as the head of the firm of William M. Ross & Co., and afterward Ross & Gossage, purchased section 30 (range 14), one mile west of Ashkum station, with a view of making it his country

home, where he could spend the few hours he might be able to snatch from the pressing and exacting cares of business in pleasure and relief. With this in view he built a snug and comfortable residence, and proceeded to surround it with a wealth of trees, embracing nearly every known variety which grows on this marvelously rich soil. Besides the evergreen and deciduous shade-trees which surround the house in rich profusion, and miles of trees in avenues across the farm, he planted some thousand or more fruit-trees, which have grown into probably the finest orchard in the county. He afterward, in 1867, added to it by the purchase of section 30 (range 11), lying just west of the former, and erected buildings, provided a beautiful deer park, and here he used to bring his friends, entertaining them with generous munificence. Hunting was rare sport in those days, and with hound and gun the days of their stay here were busily filled in loyal remembrance of and duplicating the gorgeous sports of the Scotch braves. From the Iroquois to the Mazon the wild stretch was unobstructed, and game was "plentiful than blackberries." The particular kind of sport which the genial Scotchman and his guests delighted in, will never be known again in this region of the country. Then these prairies seemed only made for sport; now nearly every acre is under cultivation, and a dozen great railroad corporations contend, as resolutely as huntsmen did then, for the game which they hope to bag,—the generous crops and the fatted herds. Lord Dufferin, governor-general of the dominion of Canada, during his tour through the United States, made a pleasant visit to the Ross Farm, and received its hospitality. The library and decorations of the house show the elegant taste of the proprietor. Mr. Ross died here in 1876. His brother and sister occupy the residence and quietly and pleasantly maintain the delightful home. Each Fourth of July the place is the scene of gay American festivities, such as become the rural citizens who meet in memory of our nation's birthday. The country around about is just as certain to attend the Fourth of July celebration at the Ross farm as to hang up its stocking Christmas eve.

The Wilson settlement, so-called, is on the farm of the late Dr. Wilson, which embraces seven or eight sections of land, running across the entire western extremity of the township. The entire farm is beautiful rolling land, and is farmed by tenants. Mr. J. H. Carpenter is foreman, and the produce of the farm is principally fed out to stock upon the place. Dr. Wilson, in addition to his large landed interest here (which has been as an investment an entire success), was engaged with his son in banking, at Gilman, and latterly at Chatsworth, as the firm of C. A. Wilson & Co., carrying on also a large real-estate business, being men of large business capacity and liberal means. Dr.

Wilson never resided here, but remained in Washington until his death. The earliest settlements were, of course, along the timber which skirts the river. The families of Mr. Wilson and Mr. Artis Yates were among the first who made permanent settlements there. Mr. John Wilson, whose name has been so largely connected with the history of the county since 1839, removed across the line into Iroquois township, and the reader will find under that heading a very full and very interesting account of his life, and his connection with the affairs of the county, though one of his sisters still lives in this town. Mr. Thomas Yates, who with his father, Artis, carried on an extensive cattle business, and whose wife is a sister of Mr. Wilson, sold the farm which he had here, in sections 28 and 29, to Mason Ayers, and moved to and now resides in Iroquois township. Mr. Yates remembers many incidents of early adventure along this neck of timber, and is not averse, when not too busy with the cares of his farm and cattle, to sitting down and relating stories of the early day, which seem now almost like fiction. But Mr. Yates is not the man to mix fiction with his facts. As early as 1850 the French from Canada began to come into this part of the town, and soon after settled around L'Erable in such numbers as to make a considerable settlement. Peter Spink, a man of large executive tact, was their leader and general man of business. Well educated and affable, he made many friends, and went here and there doing their business for them, caring only to help them along in a friendly way; but like all men who try to do too much for others gratuitously, he found his own business affairs becoming deranged, and he commenced a series of business tactics, under the pressure of circumstances, which proved ruinous to him. Together with Father Chiniquy, he labored assiduously for the building up of the church, and devoted much of his time to that worthy work. He went to Danville and bought lands for the colonists, intending to let them have them at the same price they cost him, but his financial complications rendered it impossible to do what he intended. In one of the matters which grew out of the colony or church matters, Spink was accused of swearing falsely. Father Chiniquy,—whether he was himself personally interested or not, does not appear,—seems to have suddenly taken sides against Mr. Spink, and said, while preaching in Mr. LaBounty's house, that people ought to be very careful in testifying, saying that there had been recently some false swearing done. Mr. Spink resented the imputation, and taking two friends with him, called on the priest for a retraction, which was refused; and thus began the long and bitter feud which resulted in the separation of Chiniquy from the Catholic church, and the building up Protestant missions here and in Canada, under his ministrations. Mr.



Spink commenced suit against the father for slander, laying his damages at \$7,000, which was in the courts for several years. The bishop interfered, and tried to put a stop to what he knew must result in spiritual disturbance of great dimensions; but Chiniquy was stubborn, and was finally removed (or withdrew) from the priesthood, and joined the Presbyterian church, and for a time continued pastoral labors in that connection. Spink became embarrassed through the reverses which overtook business in 1857, and the demands of an expensive family, and lost what would have proved a very valuable property. The place where he formerly lived, on the northeast quarter of section 17, is one of the finest in town. The house is well shaded by a stalwart growth of fine shade trees, and shows the educated taste of its owner.

The Belgian settlement, which was just north of here, and will be more fully noticed under the head of "Chebanse," spread farther south, and a number of the men of that colony have found homes and work farms in the northern part of Ashkum.

The French settlement spread here from Bourbonnais Grove largely under the active management of Peter Spink. William La Bounty, who is believed to be the first of the Canadian immigrants, settled on section 9, one mile north of L'Erable, in 1850. The first religious services of this people were held in his house, probably during the following summer. He has continued to reside near this for thirty years. He now lives in Ashkum village. A gentleman of tact, he early acquired such command of the English language that he became of great service to his countrymen in helping them to transact their business. Eugene Patmois and Peter St. Peter were also early settlers. About 1851 Francis, Joseph and Nicolas Grossaint came in, with means enough to make a fair start in the new county. The old gentleman lives there yet. Anton Roboine came to section 30 at the same time and made an excellent farm there. The place was given the name of L'Erable, from the great number of sugar-trees which some of the earlier settlers planted out. The post-office was established about 1857, and John Borland was appointed postmaster; after him Israel Bashour was postmaster. A. F. LaMott is the present officer. A chapel was built about 1854. In 1875 the present beautiful church was built. It is about 46×80, with a spire, and is a well proportioned and sightly edifice. It has cost about \$15,000, and is believed to be the finest house of worship in the county. The parsonage was built in 1857. After Chiniquy, Father Theodore Bresair ministered to this congregation as the first resident priest; after him Father Vanderpool, Father Perner, Father Clement, and Father Routie now. A school has been kept up most of the time. The French people coming here were all,

or nearly all, of Canadian birth, and like the Belgians who settled here, were all attached to the Roman Catholic church. They readily became citizens, taking an interest in public affairs, and many of them were called into official position, as in the surrounding townships. A gentleman who has long been acquainted with their life here, says that they have lived sober, industrious lives, meeting very fully the high anticipation which was held in regard to them, being free from vices and law-abiding.

The township was organized in 1861, at which time Thomas Stump was elected first supervisor; H. R. Cornell, clerk; A. J. Lake, assessor; and J. R. Smith and J. B. Wolcott, justices of the peace. At present writing C. W. Brown is supervisor; M. R. Meents, clerk; J. O'Reiley, assessor; J. Gallagher, collector, and A. J. Lake and F. Lemeneger, justices of the peace. At the first election, in 1861, less than 60 votes were cast. At present the voting population is over 200.

#### ASHKUM VILLAGE.

The town was laid out on railroad land, on section 28. Messrs. Ogden & Dupee had purchased the section of the railroad company, and were to pay about \$20,000 for it, and in 1856 laid out the town. The name was derived from some eastern Indian tribe, and not, as is generally supposed, taken from the Indians who had occupied this region of the country. Business was lively at that time, and had it not been for the general prostration in business which followed the financial disaster of 1857, there is no reasonable doubt that Messrs. Ogden & Dupee would have realized a very fair return from their speculation here. That, however, put a very different construction on their enterprise. They appear to have begun discreetly, built a good hotel, and arranged for opening business as fast as the country in the vicinity should become settled.

Edwin Mead, who had become interested with them by loaning some money on their property here, came here in 1858, intending to occupy the hotel. Mr. Hill was then living in it, and not desiring to give it up, Mr. Mead permitted him to remain. He died soon after, however. Peter Kelley was then here, learning his trade of blacksmith, and has been without intermission a resident and a business man here, so that he appears to be entitled to the appellation of father of the town, if any of the present inhabitants are. There was at that time (spring of 1858) a forty-acre tract under cultivation in section 22 of the southwest quarter, and Mr. Brown was living on it, and remained there till he died. Rev. Mr. Wood, who had been a Presbyterian minister, was living in the small house near the Methodist church, now

occupied by George A. Springet, and was engaged in surveying. There was a small house where Mr. Haight lives, but it has been enlarged. The house where Peter Kelley lives was occupied by David Britten. David Wright was living in a portion of the house which is now a part of Skinner's store. Dr. Norvell, the first practicing physician here, was living in the house now owned by Mr. McCurdy. Ferrell & Humphrey were the first firm in business here. Mr. Ostrander built a store here, across the street from the hotel, and that firm rented it. After Ogden & Dupee became embarrassed, they conveyed their interest to Paul Cornell and Mr. Mitchell. Cornell was by no means a slow man, and in order to save what he had got invested in the concern, induced Mead to release his claim and let him in first. In this way he came into possession of the hotel property, which had cost about \$4,000, and sent his brother, H. K. Cornell, here as his agent, to keep the hotel. The result was that both Mead and Mitchell failed to realize on their investments, while Cornell seems to have made it pay. Mitchell's interest, and indeed all interests, finally reverted to the railroad company, and titles come from that source.

Daniel Wright was the first postmaster. He was keeping store with one Bumpus, who got mixed up in a little irregularity with the government. He hired some money of one Huggins, who appears to have been a dealer in counterfeit money. Bumpus went to Champaign with the money and got rid of what he could of it, purchasing small articles at the stores, and commenced preaching. Huggins was convicted and pardoned out, after serving a portion of his term. One "Doctor" Groves, who used some of the money around here, disappeared, and some others who were wanted could not be found. The bills were counterfeits of a Bloomington bank, but on the detection of the men an examination showed that they had tools for making counterfeit coin also.

Two murders have occurred in Ashkum. The first was that of Leonard Stringham, and was the result of a complication of circumstances. It was during the war, and personal ill-feelings were apt to be largely fanned by frequent bitter political discussions. Stringham was a radical in politics and temperance. A quarrel which began about the trespass of hogs into his garden,—followed by the killing of one, and subsequent paying for it,—slumbered for awhile, when, meeting at the post-office, when his assailant was intoxicated and was ejected from the building, he returned and cut him with a small pocket-knife in the abdomen, which resulted in his death the day following. Trial, conviction and pardoning out followed.



A few years later Hair and McDonald, brothers-in-law, had a misunderstanding which resulted in a very bad state of feeling. One rainy day Hair came to town, and was reading in Smith & Chapin's store, partially leaning over the counter. McDonald came to town, and went to Kelley's blacksmith-shop while Kelley was at dinner. Waiting till his return, he secured a short bar of iron, on pretense of wishing to make use of it in some repairs, and went directly to the store and felled Hair to the floor, striking him from behind. He died in a few hours. McDonald was tried, convicted and hung. This, with two others, are the only legal hangings which have taken place in the county in the now almost half century of its legal existence.

The hay business was a very important branch of business here during the war. Great quantities were cut on these prairies and shipped to the front, and some large ricks of it never were shipped. After Sherman's march to the sea the bottom dropped out of the Confederacy so suddenly that the hay crop was not in demand down there.

#### CHURCHES, SOCIETIES, ETC.

Before any regular church organization was formed, there was occasional preaching by Methodist brethren in the school-house. Rev. Mr. Henry and Rev. Mr. Card were, as is now remembered, the first who collected a few together for religious services. Revs. Hull and Thorp also occasionally preached here. Mr. Daniel Robinson was one of the first members of this church. Mr. Sanders, an early resident, collected the means on a subscription to buy a parsonage. The terms of this subscription were such, that it was to belong to the Methodist society as long as conference kept a supply here, after which it should revert to any other orthodox society keeping up preaching here. During the pastorate of Mr. David the church was built. The building is 36×50. and cost about \$3,000. The membership is forty. Charles Case is class-leader. The Sabbath school has been kept up most of the time.

Thirty-five members (twenty-six by letter and nine on profession) united in forming a Congregational church, March 6, 1869. Rev. Joseph E. Roy, who so faithfully represented that denomination in its home mission and church extension interests, was present and preached the sermon and gave his assistance in the organization, which was perfected by the election of T. D. Haight, clerk; C. Mead, treasurer; John Brown and Edwin Mead, deacons. The church was built, in 1871, at a cost of about 3,000. The present membership is forty-four. The Sunday school is in charge of Charles E. Case, superintendent. This school was established in 1869. William M. Mellen was the first

superintendent. One of the most interesting occasions connected with the school was the celebration, in 1870, at Harroun's Grove.

The Ashkum Lodge, No. 580, I.O.O.F., was organized June 12, 1875, with the following charter members and original officers: S. A. Didamy, N.G.; T. D. Haight, V.G.; John R. Miller, A. C. Badgley and Prudent Vadbonker. C. C. Chapman was elected secretary, and Jacob Lewis, treasurer. Onarga and Watseka Lodges participated in the instituting ceremonies. The present officers are: W. H. Badgley, N.G.; John Fedderman, V.G.; C. C. Chapman, secretary; J. Lewis, treasurer; M. Chapman, lodge deputy. The membership is thirty-seven. Lodge meets Wednesday evenings.

There was a lodge of Good Templars here as early as 1863, of which Leonard Stringham was worthy chief at the time he was murdered. The present organization, Ashkum Star Lodge, No. 408, dates from October 20, 1874, with J. D. Weed, M. Packard, G. B. Carley and sixteen others as charter members. The present officers are: S. M. Packard, W.C.T.; Sena Carley, V.T.; G. B. Carley, W. Chaplain; John McDonald, W. Sect.; W. B. Langley, Asst. Sec.; Frank Meents, financial secretary; Sarah Mead, W. Treas.; G. Morrell Fowler, marshal; Ada Lewis, W.D.M.; Dora Lower, W.I.G.; Frank Lake, W.O.G.; Lizzie Brown, W.R.H.S.; Ada Lower, W.L.H.S.; James McLane, P.W.C.T. There are twenty members. Lodge meets Tuesday evening in the Methodist church.

#### VILLAGE ORGANIZATION.

A meeting was held January 20, 1870, of the "white male freeholders" living in section 28, at which Arnold Earl presided, and H. L. Payson, Jr., was secretary, to vote for or against incorporation. The vote resulted in twenty votes for, to two against incorporating, and the section-lines were fixed as the boundaries. The first election was held January 27. The following were elected trustees: Peter Kelley, Jacob Lewis, H. L. Payson, C. Brayton and H. K. Cornell. H. L. Payson was elected president; A. J. Lake, clerk; and Jacob Lewis, superintendent of streets. Thirty-two votes were cast. In 1875 it was decided to incorporate under the general act of 1872. At the first election under this the following were elected: John McCurdy, president; A. S. Cook, G. B. Heath, C. C. Chapman, James O'Reilly, J. R. Smith, trustees; and S. A. Didamy, clerk. The present officers are: Jacob Haight, president; C. C. Chapman, M. R. Meents, Thos. Kelley, James O'Reilly and P. Vadbonker, trustees; Geo. A. Springet, clerk; and J. C. Fowler, police magistrate.

## BIOGRAPHICAL.

Robert D. Ross, farmer, Ashkum, is not exactly an old settler here, though the farm of 1,160 acres, known as the "Ross Farm," has been in possession of the family for a number of years. Originally they used it as a hunting station, when deer and other game were abundant. He was born in Bonar Bridge, Ross (shire), Scotland, in 1843, and came with his parents and the remainder of the family to Canada in 1845, and a year later to Buffalo, New York, finally settling in Chicago in 1851, where the brothers engaged largely in the dry-goods business.

Thomas Stump, farmer, L'Erable, was born in the state of Ohio, December 27, 1829, and resided there until March, 1855, when he came west to Ashkum township, where his cousin, Mr. Spence, had already settled. At that time the country was very sparsely settled, but in the spring of 1855 there was a large immigration, and houses began to be erected and the prairie to be broken up. He is quite a prominent citizen of this township, having filled the office of supervisor with honor to himself and the town from 1861 to 1867, and after an interval of three years was again elected to the same office in 1870, and held it until 1877, refusing to again be put in nomination. Mr. Stump is unmarried and resides with his half-cousin, Mr. William H. Spence, their combined farms containing over 700 acres, all well improved and bearing evidences of careful cultivation.

Francis X. Lemenager, farmer, Ashkum, is a native of Belgium, having been born in the canton of Perwez, province of Brabant, in that country, in 1828. He arrived in America in 1856, and came west, settling in this township in the neighborhood of L'Erable. He worked in Clifton for Mr. Howe part of the first year, and on the arrival of his brother from Belgium went to farming, in which business he has continued since. He bought his land from the railroad company, at which time it was raw prairie; now he has it well improved and in a high state of cultivation, a commodious and handsome farmhouse, good barn and out-buildings, a grove and orchard. The whole farm of 320 acres is well fenced and thoroughly ditched. He was elected justice of the peace in 1878, and continues to discharge the duties of his office to the general satisfaction of the people. In 1874 Mr. Lemenager married for the second time, and has a family of eight children, three boys and five girls.

Eugene Lemenager, farmer, L'Erable, was born in Belgium, October 8, 1839, and sailed from Antwerp, in company with his father and two sisters, on the steamship Belgian Constitution, March 12, 1857, and after a stormy passage of twenty-two days landed in New York. He at once



came west, and rejoined his brother in this township, and proceeded to farming, in which he has been eminently successful, now owning a splendid farm of 320 acres. He has a handsome farm house, which was erected at a cost of \$2,600, the main building being 20×30 feet, and the L 20×20, all two stories high, with piazza around the south and east sides. The farm buildings are good, and a grove of 2,000 trees and orchard of 200 trees, adds greatly to the appearance of the homestead. September 23, 1862, he was married, in L'Erable, to Miss Antoinette Aucremanne, and has a family of six children, four boys and two girls. In 1879 Mr. Lemenager revisited Belgium, and found quite a change had occurred there during the twenty-three years he had been absent, and met an old neighbor there who was ninety-two years old.

Edwin Mead, farmer and stock-raiser, Ashkum, was born in Greenwich, Connecticut, October 25, 1819, and lived there for twenty-six years. He then went to New York city, and clerked, and was also engaged in the flour and feed business, the firm being Clark & Mead. After a two-years residence in this city, he returned to Connecticut and lived there one year, when he went to Virginia, where he conducted a saw-mill, lumber and wood business for five years. He subsequently visited Connecticut and farmed there for three years. He also laid out an addition to Greenwich. In 1858 he came to Ashkum, and has lived here since. He married Miss Mercy M. Reynolds, January 29, 1844, who was born in Bedford county, New York. Of their seven children six are living: Julius, Cornelia R., Edwin, Stephen J., John T. and Sarah M. Mr. Mead owns 600 acres of land in this county. He has served as road commissioner, school director and trustee.

Victor and Jasper Changelon, farmers, Clifton, were both born in Belgium, and left that country in company with their father and mother, they being both young, in the year 1863. They at once came west to this township and bought raw prairie land, which through unremitting labor they have made into a beautiful and productive farm; it is well improved and fixed up, the whole 230 acres being well ditched and fenced, with good house and barn, large bearing orchard, and handsome shade trees. Jasper married, in August, 1870, Miss Mary Constantin, and has a family of two children. Victor is still unmarried, and continues to reside with his brother.

August Muehlenpfordt, physician and druggist, Ashkum, is a native of Brunswick, Germany. He was born in September, 1839, and lived there until 1866. He began studying medicine at the age of seventeen, and graduated at the Georgia Augusta (Germany) Medical College. He practiced one year in Germany, prior to his coming to the United States. On his arrival in this country he settled in Will county,

Illinois, and practiced there until 1868, when he moved to Ashkum, and has lived here since. In 1868 he married Miss Henrietta Gerdes, who was born in Germany, and came to the United States in 1858. Of their six children five are living: August, Emma, Della, Freda and an infant.

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## CHEBANSE TOWNSHIP.

Chebanse occupies a position on the northern border of the county, with Kankakee county as its northern, the Iroquois river its eastern, Ashkum its southern, and Milk's Grove its western boundary. The Illinois Central railroad runs very nearly through its center from north to south, having on it the villages of Chebanse, sixty-four miles from Chicago, and Clifton, sixty-nine miles. Langham creek winds through it nearly central from west to east, and affords good water facilities for stock, in addition to the artesian water which is found in all portions of the town. It is composed of the following portions of congressional townships: The northern one-third of town 28, range 14, the northern third of all that is west of the river in range 13 west of the second principal meridian, and sections 6 and 7 of the fractional township, range 11 east of the third principal meridian, four sections of town 29, range 11, and the southern two-thirds of town 29, range 14, and all west of the river in the southern two-thirds of range 13, making in all some sixty-two sections of land. The poet has somewhere said that "comparisons are cruel," though just where, or what poet advanced the doctrine, very few even of our literary men can tell. The writer, while recognizing the fact that there is more truth than poetry in the excerpt, will disclaim all cruelty in saying that for location, and all the conditions which go to make a first-class township Chebanse has not its superior in the county. The rolling lands which extend in a due westerly course from the Iroquois almost to the Illinois river, keeping nearly all the way in township 29, begin here. The early settlers found along Langham, which early went by the name of "White Woman's creek," all the conditions for preëmption and early homes. While they could not afford to be away from timber and water, they found such marvelous richness of soil and beauty of landscape that one is not surprised that when Maurice Kirby came into this state at an early day, he was told that the finest land in all this county was on "White Woman's creek," and that Cassady, the then famous land speculator of Danville, was going to enter the whole of it the very next week. It was no exaggeration; and as fast as settlers could find

their way there they took up the lands. Long before railroad building good farms were under excellent cultivation in town 29, on both sides of the county line. There was in the country no finer grazing place, no richer land and no healthier location. The old "Butterfield trace," which was the highway of travel from all the country around the Upper Sangamon, the Okaw, the Embarrass and Big Grove, to the lake (Urbana), passed through, keeping very near the line which was afterward followed by the Illinois Central railroad. It ran along the Spring creek timber to a point where that stream turned east, near the present residence of Mr. Kirby, thence nearly north, passing two miles west of Plato; crossed Langham either on section 31 or 32, where William Enos lives, about one mile west of where the bridge was afterward built. Nothing seems to be known by the old settlers here in regard to Butterfield, or why this trace received his name. They only know that it was, for about twenty years, commencing probably immediately after the Black Hawk war, the greatest hog and cattle route in the state. The Funks and others, who ranged all over central Illinois, picking up all the cattle and hogs which could be bought, and who had, before this time, found in Galena the only market, commenced driving to Chicago, a place until then unknown, except on the maps of explorers and Indian traders.

In driving through here the hogs sometimes became lost, and away from civilization soon reverted to their ancient wild habits; and for protection against man and wolves, their only enemies, and especially to guard their young, would select an impregnable position,—an island in a swampy place, where they were comparatively safe. It seemed strange, at first thought, that they should select such places on the prairie instead of in the timber, but it seems that they knew best. In these places they would live for years, until a severe winter would kill them off. No wolf could approach the young pigs while protected by a cordon of ferocious old chaps, with tusks long enough to appear almost like horns. The most exciting hunting in these parts was for these wild hogs. "The danger's self was lure alone." African jungles could hardly be, so far as the excitement and danger of the experiment was concerned, more alive to real high-toned sport than were the prairie morasses along Butterfield trace.

B. F. Brady and his two brothers, Joseph and William, came from Attica, Indiana, in 1843, and bought land in sections 33 and 34, near the mouth of Langham creek, and began to make a farm of it, as well as three bachelors could. This land was bought of the state,



and was known as "state land," in distinction from government land, canal land and seminary land. It had been conveyed to the state under an act of congress, entitled "an act to appropriate the proceeds of the sales of the public lands and grant preëmption rights, approved September 4, 1861." The Brady boys built a log cabin on section 33, and lived there a number of years, and engaged in farming, raising cattle and hogs, which they drove through to Chicago, or sold to the "drovers" who scoured the country. Roushe's store was the nearest at hand, over on the east side of the river. B. F. Brady was one of the first justices of the peace in this part of the county, and was elected to the second board of supervisors, where he distinguished himself in trying to prevent the consummation of the sale of the swamp lands which he believed then and still believes was a great wrong. He considered the bonds for which they were exchanged as being utterly and entirely void, and the sale really a give-away. Before township organization took effect, voters from here went to Mt. Langham, on the east side of the river, to vote. In 1865 he removed to Kankakee, where he still resides. Joseph died on the farm about 1856.

Thomas Sammons lived a few miles north of Brady. It was then in Iroquois county. He is dead, and his son yet resides on the farm. Edward Stump and William Stump settled on Langham creek about 1846. They are both dead. William Farmer settled there about the same time. In 1854 he sold to Adolph Poncelet, the Belgian consul in Chicago. He put Mr. Harbaville on the land, and at once entered into arrangements to get his countrymen to settle on the lands. He was so far successful as to bring on a number of families in 1856. Some of them had means of their own to begin on. Some of course were poor and had to commence by working for others. A great many families of that nationality still reside in the eastern end of this and Ashkum townships, led here by the exertions of Mr. Poncelet. Some have nice and well cultivated farms. They have shown that they have been valuable citizens and a credit to the county. They were all Catholics, and with the French of like faith, who were being brought in through the assistance of Mr. Spink, founded the first Roman Catholic neighborhood in this county. It was here that Father Chiniquy came to labor and commenced holding services in Mr. La Bounty's house.

Mr. Poncelet lost his life by drowning, while on his way out from Chicago to see his possessions, in the spring of 1857. It had been raining hard, and the sloughs and streams were high. When he was at Blue Island, he asked someone standing by if he could cross; not

being able to talk English, he was misunderstood, and the answer cost him his life, for his team became mired and he was drowned. His colonists here mourned his death as if it had been a brother, for they felt while he lived that they were almost under the old flag at home. William and Jerome La Bounty came here in 1850. William preëmpted 80 acres in section 9. He was one of the first among the French settlers, and now resides in Ashkum. Nelson Detois came in soon after and settled near him. Mr. Ostrander built the mill at Sugar Island in 1848. It was a saw-mill then. Three years later he sold to Webster, who put in a run of stone. A new dam, three feet higher than the old one, was put in in 1876, and the mill was rebuilt. Dohl and Earps now run it. This was in Iroquois county until Kankakee county was erected. The first school was started in that neighborhood about 1848, in a log school-house. Mr. Whitehead was the first teacher. He had about fifteen scholars. Alfred Fletcher also taught one or two terms.

On August 29 and 30, 1863, occurred the terrible summer frost, which will never be forgotten by those who lived here at that time. Up to that day there never was a finer prospect for corn than was in the fields then, but of course none of it was ripe enough to be out of danger from injury by frost, and it was frozen to the ground. What was not killed the first night was on the second; even the stalks were frozen to the ground, and had a fire swept through it the destruction would hardly have been greater. Many farmers who had just commenced were ruined. Hogs were killed off in great numbers to prevent starvation. One man sold 100 large hogs for \$100, and others less fortunate gave them away or killed them. The destitution and distress which followed was great.

A story is told of Mr. Titus, a brother-in-law of Mr. Westover, which was so characteristic of the man and of the time, that its truth will hardly be questioned. He was a pin-maker down in Connecticut, and finding the confinement in the factory telling on his health, he came west when this country was new, intending to open up a farm. He had not been here long when the ague struck him, and he seemed liable to shake off what little flesh pin-making had left. Blue with ague and shaking so that he could not have picked up a pin if there had been thousands lying around him, he stood leaning against a fence for support one day, when he was accosted by some of the railroad hands, who with kindly feelings undertook to express sympathy for him, which was quickly repelled. He told them that he was not by any manner of means as poor as they supposed, for he did not own an acre of this accursed land, and did not propose to.

Among the finest and most extensive farms of the county may be mentioned those of Lemuel Milk, Col. D. A. Jones, W. R. Phillips, of Chicago, George K. Clark, Peter Enos, Stephen Grace, John F. Schrader, Thomas Leggett, and the fine farm known as the Orchard Farm, belonging to J. M. Balthis.

The names of many of the towns along the Central railroad are known to have been of Indian origin. At least fifty can be counted along the main line and the Chicago branch, that are known by their spelling and their sound to have been such. The general impression is that those in this county, were, like Watseka, taken from the Indians who formerly lived here, which impression is incorrect. Mr. B. F. Brady, whose judgment will not be questioned, says that these names, Chebanse and Ashkum, were never known here until they had been given to the stations by the Central railroad. Upon the authority of Hon. R. B. Mason, who was chief engineer of the road when it was built, the writer learns that these Indian names were applied by him at the suggestion of some one who was then acting under him, and they are so similar that there can be no doubt that they were suggested by some one who in the states east of this had been acquainted with them in local Indian history. Certain it is that they were not taken from any of the Illinois tribes, though to what tribe we are indebted for their origin it is impossible now to state.

The township of Chebanse was organized in 1856 by the election of Jesse Brown, supervisor; A. M. Fishburn, clerk; Levi Lindsey, assessor; A. W. Fishburn, collector; and B. F. Brady and P. E. Kingman, justices of the peace. The principal officers of what now constitutes the township at the present writing are: James Porch, supervisor; J. St. Hilaire, clerk; J. H. Sands, assessor; Louis Henrotin, collector; and A. B. Cummings and Louis Henrotin, justices of the peace.

In 1867 the question was again submitted to the voters of the county whether they would continue under township organization. The vote in this township was unanimous in favor of the existing system. The vote in the county, which was taken May 14, 1867, for or against annexing to Kankakee county all of town 29, ranges 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 west of the second principal meridian, and ranges 10 and 11 east of the third principal meridian, being the strip four miles wide across the north end of the county, resulted in the county in the negative. In this town it was affirmative by 287 votes to 33. The popular sentiment here was in its favor, for the reason that their trade and business connections were with Kankakee.



## THE VILLAGE OF CHEBANSE.

The village of Chebanse was laid out by the railroad company in the center of the northeast quarter of section 14, in 1854. The plat embraced about sixty acres, including the railroad strips, leaving some fifty acres in that quarter on either side of the plat. The business of the company, including the selling of lots, was entrusted to Mr. Seavers, the first station-agent. A. T. Alling was the second. He now lives at Neoga.

T. D. Williams was the next, and remained here until the breaking out of the war. He was by birth an Englishman. He came to America alone, at the age of fourteen, and soon after enlisted and went to the Mexican war, under Capt. Geo. B. McClellan, and after his return was sent, on that officer's recommendation, to West Point, where he graduated, and then went into private life. He married and came here as the representative of the railroad in the fall of 1857. At the breaking out of the rebellion he felt that his adopted country, which had educated him, was entitled to his service, and he raised Co. G, 25th reg., and marched to the front. Late in 1862 he was promoted to the position of colonel, though he had been acting colonel for some time. It was only a week before the battle of Stone River that he received promotion. He was wounded on the 30th, but would not keep out of battle. On the 31st his color-bearer was shot down, and seizing the fallen standard, thrusting it aloft, like the true Briton he was, shouted for his men to come forward and sustain the old flag. He received a wound from which he died on the 3d of the following month. His widow went to get his remains, but they had been forwarded before her arrival. She bore his remains east for burial, and while there their only child died. No braver or truer soldier went forth in the dark days than Col. Williams. Had his life been spared there is no doubt of his rapid promotion and great usefulness. His widow still resides here at Chebanse. Mr. Merrill, subsequently the railroad agent here, was killed by being knocked off the cars while switching. While clinging to the side of a car he was carried suddenly against the coal-house, and thrown from his position under the cars. He was followed by William Smith, who was also killed in 1876. He was standing on the cars giving orders. The train had made a "running switch," and the portion of the train which he was on was unexpectedly run into, and he was thrown to the ground.

Harrington & Spaulding were the first merchants. They built a store on the east side of the track in 1854, which was burned in 1858. Amos M. Fishburn built the next store on the same side. It was 14×16, and still stands there although several additions have been built to it

Mr. Fishburn preëmpted a farm on the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 15, and sold his store in 1858 to Washington Garlock. Spaulding & Harrington sold to R. J. Hanna, who came here from New York city with his father-in-law, Mr. James Frith, who improved the Dr. Scott land in section 11, just north of town, in 1854. Mr. Hanna was a carpenter, and went to work to build the station and freight-house here. He worked at his trade till he became a "merchant." He also sold his stock to Garlock in 1858, who continued in trade until 1869, when he sold to Bliss Sutherland, who carried on trade a year and then settled on a farm on section 12. Charles Bard came from his farm in the spring of 1857, and commenced the business of shoemaking, which in time grew into mercantile trade. E. W. Dodson opened a store in 1856, and was a deputy county surveyor. He was in trade a year, then went on a farm. He was in the army four years; returned and was elected county surveyor two or three terms. Jerome Bard came here in 1860, and engaged in buying corn with T. D. Williams.

Joseph Leonard, who succeeded Fishburn in business in the winter of 1858, was a son of Rev. J. H. Leonard, pastor of the Seamen's Bethel in Chicago. In 1860 he built a store south of the others and still on the east side. The railroad company had reserved from the market the two blocks west of the track, where nearly all business houses are now situated supposing that they would some time be compelled to use them to put up repair shops at this point, it being about half way between Chicago and Champaign. Leonard sold to Broadhead & Hanna in 1861, they to E. S. Richmond in 1862, who remained in business here until 1866, and sold to R. S. Laughlin. Richmond went into the agricultural implement trade, then into hay, which was during early times one of the most important business concerns of this part of the country. He afterward went to Texas. Mr. Laughlin continued in trade in the same building on the east side until 1878, having been for more than twelve years interested in the business and public enterprises of the town. Though now retired from business he still resides here.

In 1857 A. M. Baldwin built a store north of the others, and ran it two years, after which he sold out and went to farming. Mr. Hitchcock started the first tin-shop and hardware store, and with the drug store of E. W. Warren, and the shoe-shop of Silas Morehouse, was burned out in the fire of 1858. The first hotel was built on First South street, by George Carter, of Warrington, England. The building still stands there. There was no organized school district until 1860. The first, a subscription school, was held in a small building erected for the purpose southeast of the depot; it was about 14×16. The town-

ship was organized and the school land sold for from \$5 to \$8. At this time a new school-house, 24×36, was built, which has since been enlarged by the addition of three rooms. Four teachers are employed and the school is very efficiently managed by directors A. B. Chase, R. J. McDonald and Martin Grosse. T. D. Williams was the first school treasurer. Hon. Thomas S. Sawyer is the present official.

Mr. Hitchcock, after he was burned out in 1858, built the house known as the "Chebanse House," and occupied it as a tin-shop until 1860. It was then enlarged by Mr. Jackson. Theodore Babcock purchased it in 1864 and improved it, and has kept it as a public house ever since. In 1866 J. G. Van Ornam built the Van Hotel and kept it until 1879.

J. H. Way was the first physician, and joined with his practice selling lumber. He continued in both till 1858. The first regular lumber-yard was opened by Mr. Sisson in 1863. He ran the business for a year.

A. M. Wilson and 'Squire Trescott commenced the first meat-market in 1860. Their joint capital was \$50, just about enough to buy a good beef, a couple of fat sheep, one "middling sorter" and a veal, and have enough left for change in the drawer. At the end of two months Wilson withdrew himself and his "capital" from the concern and established himself in an extensive grain-buying firm. This left Mr. Trescott to go it alone, and he found that he had his hands full. After six years of faithful service he found that he had sufficient capital to carry on the business of insurance agent, and run for justice of the peace. He has been successful in both. A man of correct judgment and large acquaintance with men, and well posted in regard to the matters which the writer desired information about, at considerable expense of time and study he afforded such information as it would have been impossible otherwise to obtain. That the statements will be found, in the main, to be correct is reasonably expected. Mr. Wilson continued in the grain trade with Mr. Stuart until his death. Joseph Leonard built the first warehouse in 1860. The True Brothers bought it and moved it north and built the large warehouse. Kenaga & Knott got possession of it and built a large dry-house. While drying grain it took fire and was burned in 1876. Messrs. Brown & Huckins engaged in the grain trade. They sold their business to F. J. Taylor. G. P. and C. H. Comstock built the warehouse on the county line in 1867, and sold it to Taylor and engaged in business at Ashkum, where they still are. In 1873 Taylor sold this business to James Capon and retired to his farm. Mr. Chase entered into business with Capon, and the trade is now carried on here and at Donovan by Capon & Co.



Six brothers, named Grosse, came here about 1865, four of whom have proved successful merchants. John had a small store on the east side, and afterward moved to the west side. In 1873 he sold to H. C. and Frank, and went to Texas. He returned the next spring and died, leaving a considerable property. H. C. and Frank Grosse continued a successful business here until 1878, when they exchanged their store for a farm, with Hon. G. W. Parker. He closed out the stock and went to Kansas City. Martin, another brother, went on a farm, and Henry, as before stated, is engaged in mercantile trade in Chicago. Dr. J. D. DeVelving engaged in the practice of his profession, and in the drug trade, about 1863. He had previously been at Sugar Island, where was the only mill in this part of the country, and where a town had been laid out. He has one of the best stores in town.

In 1863 E. W. Warren commenced the hay business. The demands of the war were such that these vast prairies along the Central railroad, which offered such good facilities for transportation, were cut off each year. There was no end for the demand down in Dixie, and there was seemingly no end to the supply, except the lack of help to get it cut, stacked and pressed. Did any one ever estimate the number of additional men which would have been required to secure the hay crops of 1862-3-4, if the recently perfected mowing machines had been brought into use only a few years later? George Wells also engaged in the same trade. When the rebellion subsided in 1865, great rows of stacks, together with the presses and barns along the line, were burned. It has continued to be a considerable business until 1876, since which time the market price has been so low that the trade has been nearly abandoned.

With the close of the war the rush of immigration turned this way; the farms which had long been in grass were plowed; new owners and new renters appeared in great numbers. The following year, when the railroad company decided to sell the two blocks which they had withheld, business began to collect on the west side. Soon after this Mr. Milk laid out his addition to town, and built the large "combination store." This was enough to draw business in this direction. The school-house was built by James Jacqueth. Andrew Jackson, who was one of the earliest carpenters here, has built a large number of the buildings. He built the Chebanse House, the Brown House, which was intended for stores below, and offices and hall above, and many of the residences. S. Parker did considerable building.

The Chebanse Water Works Company was organized under the law of the state for joint-stock corporations, August 21, 1874. The certificate bears the names of Lemuel Milk, James Porch and F. T. McKee

as corporators. The object was to furnish water for domestic, fire and general purposes, by a plan, so far as is known to this writer, not adopted in any other place in this artesian region. The well was bored 120 feet deep, twenty of which was through solid rock, when artesian water was reached which rises to within twenty feet of the surface. A stone tower was erected, thirty-six feet high, which is twenty feet in diameter at the ground, and has on it a reservoir of 1,000 barrels capacity. This is surmounted by a wind-mill which pumps the water to the reservoir; from this mains are laid through streets, and from them hydrants are erected, and pipes lead into the houses. Families are charged \$6 per year, and the village has paid \$250 per annum for public and fire uses. This last charge has been now reduced to \$100 per annum. It has proved a perfect success.

The fire company is supplied with 400 feet of hose, a pump, and hooks and ladders. J. D. Kelley is foreman; Philip Bauer, chief; W. J. Hunter, first assistant foreman. There are eighteen members. E. L. Wright is president; Richard Eyrley, secretary.

H. D. Dement & Co., of Dixon, built the flax-mill in 1870. The mill works up the flax straw which is raised in this vicinity into tow for bagging. It has been in charge of John Soloman, as superintendent, ever since it has been in operation.

#### CHURCHES, SOCIETIES, ETC.

The earliest days of Methodism at Chebanse have no records here except in the memories of a very few. They seem to have acted upon the view that the book was kept open in another sphere, which record the present writer has no doubt has been properly kept. Unfortunately, however, it is not in a library to which he has had access. Mr. Andrew Motter, a worthy father in the church, came here and preëmpted a farm in the northeast quarter of section 17, in 1855. The religious destitution surrounding called him into active service, and knowing that he had a call to preach he used to assemble the people in the depot building, or at such other places as he could find, and there preach the gospel. He is spoken of as a sincere and earnest man, who never lost an opportunity to do good. He was called home to his reward in 1862. Timothy Young, who came from New York to a farm on Langham creek about the same time, found that he was needed in the ministry, and commenced to preach as a local preacher. He afterward left his farm and took appointments in the itinerant work. This must have been about 1860 and 1861. There were two or three other supplies before Rev. H. A. Hobbs was appointed to this charge by conference, which was in 1863. During this time George

Rogers was class-leader. Rev. A. G. Goodspeed, now located at Odell, was appointed to this work in 1866, and remained here two years, during which time, by his earnest personal labors, the fine church was built here and the infant church organization at Clifton was greatly strengthened. A subscription had been started by his predecessor. Mr. Goodspeed failed to raise the money to purchase material, but went to Chicago and bought the lumber, on three-months time, of an entire stranger, upon his own personal pledge of payment. He secured a reduction in freight, and hired Charles Martin to superintend the work, which was all done by the day. The building in this way was put up at a cost of \$2,775, including all the furniture required, and bible, which was considerably less than any contract offered. It is needless to say, of course, that the people of Chebanse responded willingly, so that Mr. Goodspeed's pledge was made good without any inconvenience to him. The building is 32×55. The lot was donated by the railroad company. C. E. Rowe is the present pastor. The other preaching points are at Leggett's and Warren's school-houses. The present membership is sixty. The parsonage was built about 1863. The Sabbath school is under the superintendency of Mr. Chapman.

The preliminary meeting, looking to the organization of the Baptist church, was held at the house of H. P. Havens, June 13, 1866. At a subsequent meeting, held at the house of Mr. Tyler, the following were present and signified their desire to unite and form a church: H. P. Havens and wife, their two sons, Reuben and Elisha, and their wives; William P. Gardner and wife, Mr. Evarts and wife, J. W. Baker and wife, J. J. Tyler and wife, Mariah Tuttle and Hannah Calhoun. Rev. J. M. Whitehead, of Kankakee, was present, and it was resolved to meet July 5 to perfect the organization, and the churches at Onarga and Kankakee were invited to sit in council at that time. Upon the day named the meeting was held, and after articles of christian belief were submitted and adopted the meeting adjourned to the school-house, where council was duly formed. There were present several delegates from the church at Kankakee, the Rev. D. W. Morgan from Onarga, and the Rev. R. Gilbert from Antioch. The new church was duly recognized and the following services were held: Sermon, by Rev. Mr. Gilbert; charge to the church, by Rev. Mr. Morgan; right hand of fellowship, by Rev. Mr. Whitehead. Lots were donated by the railroad company, and a committee was appointed to collect means to build the church. Rev. G. W. Lewis was the first pastor. He preached each alternate Sabbath for one year. The church was built in 1867 and 1868. Messrs. Tyler, Baker and Gardner were trustees, and together with



Mr. Huckins, comprised the building committee. The church is 36×60, and cost about \$3,000. Rev. A. H. Esty was called as pastor in 1871. Rev. Mr. Wilderman succeeded him, and elders Palmer and S. M. Brown have also in turn served the church. The present membership is thirty-five. The Sabbath school has been maintained in the summer. Reuben Havens is superintendent. The membership is about seventy.

Those contemplating the organization of the Congregational church met at the house of R. S. Laughlin, Esq., September 6, 1868. Mr. Laughlin acted as chairman, and H. C. Wycoff as secretary. A council was called to meet October 27, at which time the following delegates from sister churches were present: Rev. Mr. Brundage, of Paxton; Rev. Mr. Watson, of Loda; Rev. Mr. Beecher, of Kankakee; Rev. Mr. Wycoff, of Monee; and brothers Lyons, of Clifton, and Brown, of Pilot. Rev. Mr. Brundage was appointed to preach the sermon, and Mr. Beecher to extend the right hand of fellowship. The church was then organized with the following members: R. S. Laughlin, D. Roadifer, W. O. Roadifer, M. Elliott, H. G. Wycoff, Samuel Kingsbury, S. Robinson, Rhoda Roadifer, Lavina Kingsbury, Emily Laughlin, Harriet Laughlin, Helen Roadifer, Martha Elliott, Mary S. Robinson and Martha Burroughs. December 10 the following officers were elected: R. S. Laughlin, D. Roadifer and S. Robinson, trustees; M. Elliott and W. O. Roadifer, deacons; H. G. Wycoff, clerk and treasurer. Rev. Daniel R. Miller served as pastor one year from December 1, 1868. The congregation worshiped half a year in Porch's Hall, then one year in the Baptist Church, and for a few months in the Methodist Church. A. J. Ford, D. Roadifer, James Flemming, J. M. Burroughs and F. J. Taylor were appointed a building committee. They purchased a lot and proceeded to build the church, 32×45, which is well seated and neatly furnished, at a cost of \$2,400. Rev. George F. Chipperfield, of the seminary, commenced his labors here April 1, 1878, and continues to preach alternately here and at Clifton. Mrs. Burroughs is clerk of the church. The membership is 43. The church was dedicated in August, 1872, free of debt. The Sabbath school numbered sixty-four when organized. Mr. Rowell is superintendent.

The earliest services of the Catholics here were held in the house of William O'Rourke. Father Pernin had charge of the mission, though before him Father Vanderpool, who was the resident priest at L'Erable, said Mass here occasionally. The church (St. Mary and Joseph) was built in 1867 or 1868, while Father Pernin was here. It is 32×60, with cupola and bell, and cost \$2,500. Father Schroudenbach was the first resident priest in 1870, for one year. After him Father Kukan-

buch served the church here for two years, and since that Father Gonant for seven years. The church at Clifton is also under the charge of the same clergyman. The parsonage was built in 1873 at a cost of \$1,300. There are about one hundred families within the bounds of this charge, who attend divine worship here, and a more numerous congregation at Clifton. The members of this church organized, April 7, 1878, the Chebanse Father Mathew Total Abstinence Society: Father Gonant, president; Frank Hennessy, vice-president; John Mahoney, second vice-president; Patrick Murphy, secretary; William Burke, treasurer. The society numbers sixty members, and has recently established a library. It is in efficient working order, and is accomplishing much good.

The Chebanse Lodge, No. 429, A.F. and A.M., was instituted October 4, A.L. 5865, with the following charter members: E. W. Warren, M. Burnes, E. H. Foss, H. A. Hobbs, W. Furgeson, W. H. Swain, H. Hodges, J. W. VanMeeter, L. G. Blanchard, E. S. Richmond and C. S. Wolcott. The first officers were J. W. VanMeeter, W.M.; E. H. Foss, S.W.; M. Burnes, J.W. Since then the following have acted as masters: Laban Haworth, E. H. Foss, Matthew Burnes, Thomas Barham, J. H. Sands (six years), E. G. Fish. The present officers are: R. J. Macdonald, W.M.; L. A. Kinney, S.W.; G. W. Burns, J.W.; Frank McKee, treasurer; F. F. Porter, secretary; Frank Jackson, S.D.; P. E. Hall, J.D.; Henry Tille, T. The lodge numbers fifty-five members, and is in a very flourishing condition. The Brown House has just been purchased by the lodge for its lodge room above, expecting to rent the lower rooms. The meetings are on Wednesday night on or before the full moon, and the Wednesday night two weeks after.

#### TOWN INCORPORATION.

Chebanse was incorporated as a town under the old law in 1868. July 9 a meeting was held, at which Robert Nation presided, and G. W. Binford was clerk, for the purpose of voting for or against incorporation, at which election the vote stood 15 to 7 in favor of incorporating. The election for five trustees took place July 17, at which S. A. Robinson, H. Huckins, Robert Nation, R. S. Laughlin and James Robinson were elected. S. A. Robinson was chosen president; and T. S. Sawyer, clerk; P. W. Tracey, constable; T. Babcock, street commissioner. The town received a special charter, March 13, 1869. May 13, 1874, a petition was presented to the board to call an election to vote for or against reorganization as a village under the general act of 1872. The election was held May 29, and resulted in favor of such reorganization by a vote of 32 to 28. The present officers are: L. A.

Kinney, president; E. W. Brown, Patrick Murphy, H. Huckins, Jerome Bard and J. P. Schofield, trustees; Peter E. Hall, clerk; Martin Grosse, assessor; James Porch, treasurer; J. D. DeVeling, police magistrate. The village has always granted license, at the rate of \$300 per annum. The following have been postmasters: Mr. Seavers, Amos M. Fishburn, Mr. Hitchcock, Mary Linsey, T. D. Williams, L. A. Bristol, A. M. Wilson, Joseph Leonard, R. J. Hanna, E. S. Richmond and W. J. Hunter. The office was made a money-order office in 1879.

Thomas S. Sawyer commenced the publication of the Chebanse "Herald" in the fall of 1868, which has been continued without interruption from that time under his management. It was the aim of the publisher to make a paper of local interest, independent in politics, and this was its course until the "Liberal" was started as an exponent of the views of liberal republicanism in 1872, when the "Herald" became republican under the force of circumstances. This "change in front in the face of the enemy" caused the nomination of its editor and his election to the legislature, where he made a record for himself of which any young man might well be proud. The assembly which met January 1, 1873, had before it the important work of revising the laws of the state, and bringing into one volume the legislation of a quarter of a century and make it conform to the provisions of the constitution then recently gone into effect. Mr. Sawyer, as a member of the committees on judiciary, judicial department and on banks and banking, took an important part in that revision. Every statute in that book had to pass the scrutiny of the judiciary committee, and by constant attention to the duties of a representative, he assisted largely in perfecting the statutes of our state. W. W. Gibson started the "Liberal" in 1872. In 1873 it passed into the hands of Dr. J. D. DeVeling, who conducted it as a forcible and consistent advocate of the views of the independent and national greenback party. Though fairly successful as a local newspaper, and meeting with good patronage both from its party friends and others, its publication was discontinued in 1879.

Milk's addition to Chebanse was laid out in 1868, and is in Kankakee county, the county line dividing it from the original town. He built a large building, the lower part of which is occupied by his combination store, and the upper portion for a hôtel. The store, like all the various enterprises of Mr. Milk, is characteristic of the business activity of the man. Most men with fifty farms, a few thousand cattle, sheep and hogs to occupy his time and attention, would feel satisfied with one store to look after, but here he has four to divide his spare



hours among. If Satan only has a contract for supplying work for idle hands, there is not much danger that he will ever have to take Mr. Milk under supervision.

## CLIFTON.

“Bespeak, blesséd Clifton! thy sublime domain,  
Here lonely wandering o’er the sylvan bower,  
I come to pass the meditative hour;  
To bid awhile the strife of passion cease,  
And woo the calms of solitude and peace.  
Fair Nature! thee, in all thy varied charms,  
Fain would I clasp forever in my arms!  
Thine are the sweets which never, never sate,  
Thine still remain through all the storms of fate.  
Though not for me, ’twas heaven’s divine command  
To roll in acres of paternal land;  
Yet still my lot is blesséd, while I enjoy  
Thine opening beauties with a lover’s eye.

H. KIRKE WHITE’S “Clifton Grove.”

Clifton is situated on section 3, township 28, range 14; is sixty-nine miles from Chicago, and about five southwest of Chebanse. This section was not railroad land and there was not at first a disposition on the part of the company to make a station here. The first comers here were principally from New England, and were men of education and plenty of theories, but very little practical knowledge of western settlement. The site was a delightful one and the country back of it was excellent. In the summer of 1855 W. B. Young, L. A. White, J. C. and C. O. Howe came from Worcester, Massachusetts, and commenced making farms in this vicinity. C. O. Howe settled where Van Duzor now lives, and his brother just north of there. Patrick and Mary Conaway had a shanty made of fence-boards at a point about one mile north, and this came to be known as Howe’s Port, or Howe’s Landing. As it was not a station on the road there was no regular name for it. The next year P. E. Kingman, C. H. French and Capt. Lincoln came from Boston and entered land, or bought it from the railroad, and commenced farming. In 1857 T. W. Howe and H. K. White, and the father of Clifton, Mr. William A. Viets, came. Mr. Viets was born on the Berkshire hills, made famous by the little incident of William Willis, when he was taunted into mustering up courage to kiss Susanah Pease, and then, as his courage oozed out, trying to place the blame on the girl herself. He was engaged in business in Chicago and believed that here was a good place for a town. He was boarding at the Clifton House at that time, and that incident furnished the name for the place, not, as he says, because it was any more appropriate than Howe’s Landing, but the name sounded

smoother at least. Mr. Viets, after some management, succeeded in getting the title to the land perfected, and laid out his town, covering about 80 acres on both sides of the railroad, and commenced selling lots in 1858. Previous to this time passengers wishing to stop here were permitted to, and once a week freight was sent here, but only on the pledge that it should be unloaded from the cars with as little delay to the train as possible. A switch was put in this year and a post-office was established. J. B. Duclos, a Frenchman, built a store on the corner south of the hotel, and was appointed postmaster. Previous to this the house now owned by Mr. Sheldon was built, and in fact a number of the farm houses around but that' long known as the Davis House was the first.

John Barland soon after put up a store next to the one Duclos had built, but both were burned two years later. Mr. Viets built a blacksmith shop to start with, knowing that no well-regulated town could get along without one, and built the house he still resides in, and, with a determination to do well whatever he did, built the house well back from the road, put a good cellar under it, and made it as convenient as possible, and set out trees on his own and railroad land. The fine maple grove which is growing along the railroad was of his planting. He at one time was ordered to remove them, but before proceeding to obey the order he expostulated with the company and the order was countermanded, after they became satisfied that he did not intend to steal the railroad.

Isaac Van Duzor came here from Orange county, New York, and built the Clifton House in 1858, which he kept for fourteen years. He also built the store east of the hotel. When it was done he went to Chicago looking for some clever fellow who would trust him for goods enough to fill it. He found his man, and bought his first bill of \$2,800 worth, entirely on credit, of perfect strangers. The hotel business was thriving and mercantile business booming. He afterward built the agricultural warerooms, and kept that trade also. Mr. A. S. White now has the hotel and it is still one of the nicest public houses on the line of this road. H. K. White was the first to engage in the grain trade. He was prominent in advancing the interests of the place, and served the town as supervisor and in other official capacities. He died in 1865.

George H. Spooner came here quite early and engaged in house-building. He was an educated man and took a great deal of interest in public affairs. He sold out here and intended to go to South America, where he had an advantageous offer. He went east to make a short visit, and returning, went down in the terrible disaster at Ashtabula.

Several additions to the town have been platted. In 1869, Howe's addition of nearly 100 acres on the north was laid out, and in 1873, Viets' addition on the east, about 50 acres. The cemetery was laid out in 1861. The interest of Howe and Kingman, who are both residing at Hyde Park now, and in business in Chicago, on the west side, had the usual effect of such divided interests. Business was on the east side, the church on the west, and it was thought that, for that reason, probably, the school-house ought to be there also. In building the school-house it was put up close by the switch, and with the growth of the town a new one was beginning to be demanded. In this juncture the west-side folks got the district divided, but unfortunately for them the east side continued to be the old district, and as such was the legal owner of the house. The new district got it fixed up for beginning their school, put an extra board on the steps, puttied the windows, plastered the patches, etc., and in the still hours of the night, when all the west-side mothers were just thanking their stars that the next day they would get some peace at home, for the children would be in school, the Vandals and the Goths of the east side sallied forth and moved the school-house across the track, and what they took by night they held by right, and the new district put their names down on the assessor's book for a new one. Two two-story school-houses, each about  $28 \times 40$ , afford sufficient room for the schools, and each is surrounded by ample and beautiful grounds.

There is a very pleasant park on the east side. The block some years ago came into possession of Mr. Louther, who beautified and added to its already shady improvements, and when Mr. Ferris took it into his paternal head to name his new-born son in honor of the distinguished gentleman who owned the beautiful block, Mr. Louther, to return the compliment, gave the park to the lad. There is so much of the spirit of devotion to utility only, among the people of our western towns, that it is a real pleasure to note,—right in the middle of a busy little town like this, where the attention of every one seems engrossed with trade, or the current price of hogs; where the first question asked when neighbors meet, is, "Got your corn shucked?" or, "How 's hogs?"—a real pleasure to find a spot, like an island in the waste, where some one has had an eye to the beautiful simply, not even selfish comfort adorned, but adorning being the chief object; where, as long as this generation lives, the thoughts of those even who pass by, as the writer did in a minute's walk, will be turned toward the beautiful in nature, and thank the liberal soul who has bestowed a public pleasure.

Among other things which Mr. Viets gave his attention to, was the making of good roads that should lead toward Clifton, and in the



making of these he indirectly aided to drain those parts of the land which were believed to be too wet for cultivation. He also secured the establishment of a post-route through Clifton, from Plato on the east, to Sugar Loaf, Saunemin, Pontiac and Minonk, upon which were nearly a dozen country offices, which had not before this been supplied with mail facilities. Many of those who commenced business enterprises here early lost in business and disappeared. Smith & Gage have done a large and lucrative business for some years. C. W. Smith, the head of the firm during ten years of changes in the personnel of the firm, is a thorough and accomplished business man, and by thorough attention to business has commanded a profitable trade. Mr. La Motte, of L'Erable, has done a good business here for two years. Ellis Moore has been doing a large trade here for two years. Dr. Marshall has been in the practice of his profession here ever since he returned from the army, and most of the time has carried on the drug business. Mr. Viets, Dr. Marshal, Rev. Mr. Brown, S. P. Walton and others, have nice residences. One of those "survey towers," which have caused so much comment and wonder as to their real object, is erected on the farm of A. B. Cummings. It is made of massive timbers set in the ground about thirty feet apart at the base, and slanting toward each other until, at the height of eighty feet, they are about twelve feet apart. On the top is a signal, so arranged that it can be seen with a glass from the top of the next tower, which is some fifteen miles away. The real object did not seem to be known, except that in a general way they were for surveying this portion of the state, and numerous were the suppositions in regard to them. The real object is to survey accurately an arc of the earth's circumference, and this region was selected on account of the long stretch of open level country extending from Chicago to the Ohio & Mississippi railroad. The exact position of Chicago had been determined by the very accurate lake survey, which had been in progress for years, and from that city south over the Grand Prairie seemed to be the place to learn by triangulation,—the only accurate system of survey,—the exact length of an arc of the earth's surface, and estimate from that the diameter of the earth, the distance and size of the planet Venus and other heavenly bodies. All this is done by triangles, only one short side of the first triangle at Chicago being actually measured by chain.

#### VILLAGE ORGANIZATION.

An election was held June 17, 1867, to vote for or against incorporating under the general act of 1845, which resulted in a vote of thirty-seven for and twenty-six against incorporating. June 29 the

first election was held and the following trustees were elected: C. O. Howe, S. B. Walton, L. J. Millspaugh, A. B. Cummings and F. Cazeau. For police magistrate the vote was a tie between G. H. Spooner and H. Sanderson. The former was successful in casting lots. Mr. Millspaugh was chosen president; S. B. Walton, clerk; C. O. Howe, treasurer. The limits were fixed to take in the entire section. In 1874 the town reorganized under the general act of 1872. License has been granted each year but one. At the election that year five of the candidates were tied by receiving an equal number of votes, and the temperance candidates drew the "long straws." The present officers are: R. F. Cummings, president; John Colby, John Hettinger, S. R. Beardslee, L. G. Bergeron and Jacob Gregorson, trustees; C. D. Roberts, constable; A. B. Cummings, police magistrate; Thomas Wyke, street commissioner; H. J. Swim, clerk.

#### CHURCHES.

The early citizens at Clifton were principally from New England, and coming here did not leave their religious and denominational preferences behind them. Among their first organized efforts was the forming of a Congregational church, or rather in the building of the church edifice, in which they were seconded by Mr. J. C. Howe, of Boston. A preliminary meeting was held November 26, 1859, at which Rev. M. E. Tenny, of the home missionary field, was present, and Rev. Mr. Gould, of Loda. The following persons then agreed to form a church: W. A. Viets and wife, Pliny E. Kingman and wife, Isaac Van Duzor and wife, Charles O. Howe and wife, Jabez C. Howe and wife, Martha B. Taft, Demorest Walker, C. A. Viets and Patty Goodhue. At a meeting held January 8, 1860, at which P. E. Kingman was moderator, and C. O. Howe, clerk, the organization was perfected by the election of W. A. Viets and C. O. Howe deacons for a term of three years. Mr. Gould preached for awhile, usually in the hotel, and Rev. Mr. Chipperfield, a student in the seminary has preached since 1877. The present membership is twenty-five. The church, which is 32×55, was built soon after the regular organization. The lot and all material for the building was the donation of Jabez C. Howe, of Boston. The first draft of \$500 which he sent on, having been lost by the failure of the person to whom it was entrusted, was replaced by Mr. Howe as soon as the fact was brought to his attention. The Sabbath school has been kept up nearly all the time. A bible class was in the habit of meeting at the hotel before the church was formed.

In 1859 the following Methodists, R. Mitchell, J. Sylvester, A.

Starkey, and Mrs. A. Sellers, instituted a prayer meeting and formed themselves into a society for worship. About this time Rev. Mr. Lokey, of Spring Creek circuit, volunteered to preach for them once a month. In 1864 the society was for the first time officially included in that circuit, and Rev. T. J. W. Sullivan, was pastor in charge.

George Millspaugh was then the class-leader, and seems to have been so at the formation of the class. Rev. A. G. Goodspeed, now of Odell, was the next preacher, coming in 1866 for two years. At this time Mr. S. R. Beardslee was appointed class-leader, a position he still holds. Rev. F. H. Brown, of the Rock River conference, located here and preached for two years. He was not only a man of great fervor, full of religious zeal, but also a man of good business capabilities, and upon him devolved the labor of building the fine church edifice which this people have. It is 34×56, two stories high, and though yet unfinished internally, presents a very pleasant appearance. It has cost thus far \$2,800. The present pastor is Rev. J. P. Forsythe. The present membership is sixty. The Sabbath school was organized in 1867, with Thomas Barham as superintendent. S. R. Beardslee is the present superintendent.

The Roman Catholics have a very neat and tasty church, which was built in 1867, 30×50, and cost \$3,000. The earliest services held here were in the house of James McGovern, by the resident priest at L'Erable, in 1862. Services were sometimes held in the warehouse. The resident priest at Chebanse officiates here. About 150 families worship here.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

Humphrey Huckins, stock-dealer, Chebanse, is one of the pioneers of this county, he coming here in 1839, and his wife's family in 1841. They relate numerous anecdotes of the trials and tribulations incident to a pioneer life. Neighbors were scarce and at very great distances apart. Danville was the nearest point accessible for marketing. An Indian would now and then be seen, all peaceable, but they soon disappeared after the settlers began to come in. Prairie wolves were abundant, and many a sheep fell a prey to their ravenous appetites. When the railroad was being built they boarded the hands, as no other place at a reasonable distance could be obtained, and it was actually forced upon them. Mr. Huckins carried the hands' dinner, as they progressed, for a distance of several miles. An ordinary coffee-mill was brought into requisition for the purpose of grinding their meal, and hundreds of other modes of "roughing it" they were compelled to go through. Men and women of to-day may talk of hard times, but they know



absolutely nothing of hard times in comparison to these hardy sons of toil,—the early pioneers of forty and fifty years ago. Mr. Huckins was born in Clark county, Ohio, April 8, 1819, residing there till 1839, following the occupation of farming. He removed to Butler's Point, Vermilion county, this state, remaining two years. He then came to Iroquois county, settling near the mouth of Spring creek. His father entered some 200 acres and Mr. Huckins 40, adding until he had accumulated some 200 acres. He sold out and went to Kankakee county, living ten years, and then came to Chebanse in about 1869, where he has since resided. He was married on January 12, 1843, to Miss Sarah Boyd, who was born in Maryland on June 12, 1824. They have four children: Guy; Carrie, wife of M. A. Swift, of Terre Haute, Indiana; Mary, wife of E. G. Fish, of Fisher, Champaign county, Illinois; and Frank. Mr. Huckins, like all other old residents, has held all the offices a country town is "heir" to.

Humphrey Hennessy (deceased) was born in the county of Cork, Ireland, in 1815, and at the age of thirty-five came to America, working as a farm hand in the state of New York for three years. November 1, 1853, he was married to Miss Margaret Gleason, and immediately set sail by canal and the lakes for the Great Northwest. Somewhere on the route he met Col. Howard, who engaged and brought them, by way of Joliet, to work on a farm at Milk's Grove, Chebanse township, in this county. Mrs. Hennessy did the housework for a large number of hands for nearly three years. While at the Grove they had born unto them one son, Franklin J., who is said to have been the first white male child born at the Grove, at least after its settlement by the whites. The Hennessys, being noted for their industry and economy, soon became the owners of a farm near Sugar Island, on the banks of the Iroquois river, where Mr. Hennessy died on July 29, 1870. He, during life, was always greatly interested in the education of his children, and in schools and public improvements. To those he liked he was an ardent and warm friend; but he held no intercourse with those he did not like. While living in New York state he became a whig on principle, and when the republican party came into existence he attached himself to that faith, and on no account would he vote any other ticket. In religious views Mr. Hennessy and family were Catholics. Mrs. Hennessy, with her youngest son, who manages the farm, still resides upon the old homestead; while her son, Franklin J., is in the employ of Lemuel Milk, Esq., Chebanse, in his general merchandise establishment, which position, by his general good conduct, he has held for the past six years. Franklin was born July 29, 1854, and John on October 29, 1857, at his present place of abode.

Peter Enos (deceased), another shining light of this township, has gone the way of all flesh. He was born in Cayuga county, New York, on the 24th of March, 1826, and was the son of Jonathan and Cynthia (Howard) Enos, who raised a family of eleven children, seven sons and four daughters. Mr. Enos left New York at the age of ten years (1836) with his parents, and settled in Michigan, where he remained on a farm till the age of twenty-eight. He removed to Kankakee about 1853, and about 1855 or 1856 came to Chebanse township and preëmpted 160 acres of land, purchasing the same when it came into market. He has since added forty acres to his farm, and in 1876 he built a handsome residence, where his widow still resides in peace and quietude. Mr. E. left two other fine farms, which he had accumulated by industry and economy, besides considerable personal property, having dealt in stock to a great extent. The farm where his wife resides is one of the finest in the township, having an elegant new frame building, surrounded with shrubbery and a dense grove of evergreens; also fine out-houses, etc. He was one of the most thorough and energetic farmers in the county. An upright, generous, whole-souled man, a friend of the oppressed, he was loved by all who came in contact with him. His word was as good as his bond. He had no enemies, and none knew him but to admire, and spoke of him but to praise. He was a member of no sect or society; took no particular interest in politics, but was of the republican faith. He died of consumption, January 28, 1880. He went south during the summer of 1879, came home, and died in Kankakee at his brother's residence, eleven days afterward, leaving a loving wife to mourn his untimely end. When the gold fever broke out his ambition was at once fired, and with his team he started for Pike's Peak, and from there he went to California. He was married January 19, 1865, to Miss Mary E. Luce, who was born on Long Island, January 4, 1843.

Joseph Haigh, farmer, Chebanse, deserves something more than a passing notice at our hands. He was born March 25, 1824, in Yorkshire, England. Until twenty-six years of age he was engaged in the manufacture of cloth, when, in 1851, he came to America, settling in Philadelphia, and started in the business of manufacturing cotton cloth. Leaving there in the spring of 1855, he went to Chicago and improved a forty-acre tract of land for a personal friend, and in the month of July of the same year he came to Chebanse, settling on the farm where he now resides, within a mile of the village of Chebanse. He has at present nearly 160 acres, with very neat and pleasant residence, commodious out-buildings, good fences, etc., which has a commanding view of the village and its surroundings. He has followed

the occupation of farming and stock-raising, but for the past ten years has led a more retired life. He being a man of great literary attainments, he has devoted a great deal of his leisure moments to writing for publications, both editorial and poetical. September 3, 1855, he started on foot, after sunrise, for Danville, a distance of seventy-five miles, making sixty-three miles the first day. His mission was for the purpose of entering his land, the land office being then located at Danville. He was school treasurer for seven years, and many a time has he walked to Watseka for the purpose of transacting business in connection with his office and otherwise. He was the first town clerk elected, holding the same some seven or eight years. On two occasions he and Robert Nation, Esq., visited Camp Butler, at Springfield, with their pockets full of money, for the purpose of paying town bounties to soldiers who enlisted on behalf of Chebanse township, its quota being double what it should have been. He was married, April 6, 1861, in this place, to Miss Mary A. McGrady. She was born in Canada, August 24, 1834. They have an only child, John Freeman. Mr. Haigh belongs to no denomination or society, and is looked upon as a representative man by all who know him best.

Joseph Vander Poorten, farmer, Clifton, was born in the province of Flanders, Belgium, February 16, 1828. He was reared on a farm, and received a good common-school education. At the age of twenty-seven he emigrated to America, residing one year in Lewis county, New York, and in April, 1856, he came to this township. He purchased 80 acres of land, and has since added 120 more, and in 1877 he built himself a very commodious and comfortable residence, where he still resides. He was married in L'Erable, January 15, 1861, to Miss Auralia Bunker, who was born in Chambly, on the Sorel river, Canada, April 12, 1840. They have been made the happy parents of nine interesting children, six living: Emily, Delphine, Eugene, Walter, Norbert and Stephen; the deceased were: Enma, Edwin and Addie. Mr. Vander Poorten has held the position of commissioner of highways, and been school director ever since 1864. By perseverance, industry and hard labor, he has had the satisfaction of accumulating a nice property. He embraces the Catholic faith; and in politics votes for the man who, in his opinion, is the ablest and most desirable.

F. Fronville, farmer, Clifton, was born in Bonneff, Belgium, April 12, 1838. His parents were Joseph and Catherine (Thiry) Fronville. He came with his parents to this country in 1856, stopping three months in Chicago. He then came to Iroquois, residing there three years; thence to Kansas for six months. Returning again to this township he worked here and there, wherever he could obtain work. In



1861 he bought 40 acres, and has since erected a nice residence, and has devoted his energies to farming. He was married, March 3, 1862, to Miss Rosalie Ponton, who was born in Canada, September 29, 1842. They have eight children: Rosa, Mary L., Mary A., Eugene, Melina L., Emile A., Amelia F. and Louis J.; and one deceased. Mr. Fronville's father still resides with him, at the good old age of seventy-three years. Mr. Fronville has been school director two years. He had one brother (Louis) killed in the late war.

E. W. Dodson, farmer, Chebanse, was born in Luzerne county, Pennsylvania, on July 3, 1830. His parents were Stephen B. and Flavia (Cobbs) Dobson, both natives of the same county. Mr. Dobson was raised as a farmer, but taught school, clerked, etc., part of the time. In 1854 he moved to Cook county, Illinois, teaching school that winter. In 1855 he came to Kankakee county, and in 1856 to Iroquois county. He has followed surveying to some extent. In August, 1861, he enlisted in the 10th Ill. Inf., and reënlisted in January, 1864. He participated in the battles of the siege of Corinth, Atlanta, New Madrid, Lookout Mountain, Jonesboro, Sherman's march to the sea, back through the Carolinas, and at Bentonville, North Carolina,—Sherman's last fight. He then went to Washington and participated in the grand review May 25; was mustered out July 4, at Louisville, Kentucky, and was paid off in Chicago on the 12th, and returned home. In 1865 he was elected county surveyor, and reëlected in 1867. He also held other minor offices. He has under cultivation 120 acres. He is a member of no denomination, and is an active republican. He was married, November 29, 1877, to Miss Martha E. Babcock, who was born in Charleston, Massachusetts, December 27, 1840.

James M. Burroughs, Chebanse, was among the early settlers in this vicinity, and we devote space to his biography with considerable pleasure. He was born in Alstead, New Hampshire, April 16, 1812, and was a resident of that immediate locality for some forty-five years. He was raised as a farmer lad, but served his time at the carpenter's trade, following the same in connection with farming till about 1856, at which time he moved west and settled in Sugar Island, this county, having preëmpted 160 acres. He soon added another 40, and farmed for some ten years. For two years he kept store, with Dr. Buckner as a partner. In March, 1869, he moved to the village of Chebanse, purchased a large lot and built himself a house. He followed his trade for six years, and was in the furniture business for three years. He built the school-house, Congregational church and was engaged on the Methodist, and on every hand can be seen evidences of his handiwork, both in the town and country. He has been a

member of the town council, school director and town trustee. Mrs. Burroughs is an honored member of the Congregational church. He was married in Bloomington, April 2, 1858, to Martha A. Ransdell, who was born in Bowling Green, Kentucky, December 25, 1826. They have two children: Fred M. and Burt E., both born in Sugar Island. Mrs. Burroughs has one child, deceased (Anna Ransdell), who was the wife of Edwin B. Tyler. She died December 29, 1872. Mrs. Burrough's wedding tour was of the most primitive nature, and our fair damsels of to-day would scarce embark on the sea of matrimony, knowing that their wedding trip was to be in a lumber wagon, mounted on their "Saratoga," and that their "best bib and tucker" had to be protected from the rain by the friendly shelter of a sheep-skin, lovingly thrown around her by her sworn protector. Her reception room was furnished with an old rag carpet, bedstead, a chair or two, and an old rusty cook-stove took the place of a "base-burner."

Francis W. Howe, farmer, Clifton, an old settler and a well-to-do farmer, was born in Brookfield, Massachusetts, December 18, 1819. He lived with his parents until twenty years of age, and then went to New York city, going into the wholesale dry-goods business, in which he remained till 1857. In the fall of 1857 he moved west, settling in Clifton, this township, where he has continued to remain. C. O. Howe and brothers bought 4,000 acres of land here, of the Illinois Central Railroad Company and Solomon Sturgis, of Chicago, in or about 1855. Mr. Howe came two years later and took up 120 acres. He was married, January 8, 1845, to Miss Sarah S. Cowdrey, of New York city. She died February 16, 1866, in her forty-second year. He was again married, October 3, 1867, to the widow of the late H. K. White, a well known and respected citizen of Clifton. She was born April 18, 1830. He has six children by first marriage: Helena C., wife of Edward S. Perry, of New Haven, Connecticut; Arthur L., Walter M., Oscar C., William F. and Isabel A. Josephine D. Howe died in New York, August 17, 1853. Mr. Howe has a cozy residence on the outskirts of the village of Clifton, with large and beautiful grounds surrounding it, uniformly laid out with shade trees, and it is just such a home as any one might well covet.

J. P. H. Trescott, justice of the peace, Chebanse, was born in Luzerne county, Huntington township, Pennsylvania, September 30, 1825. His father, Luther, was born in Canaan, Connecticut, and his mother, Eleanor (Parke), was raised in New Jersey,—both being of Quaker parentage. The father died in the winter of 1878, and the mother in February, 1864. Mr. Trescott was reared on a farm, and lived in his native township until 1857, when he removed to this vil-

lage, arriving here March 28. While in Luzerne county he farmed during the summer and taught school during the winter. He also followed farming in this township for three years, and teaching school through the winter seasons, receiving \$22 a month and board. The times being very hard he considered himself extremely lucky to obtain employment at almost any remuneration. After three years of ill health, and his doctor's bills being so high, he was obliged to quit farming. He moved to the village of Chebanse, May 1, 1860, and on September 1 he formed a partnership with Amos M. Wilson, with a combined capital of \$40, and opened a butcher shop, and two months thereafter he bought out his partner and continued the business until 1867, in connection with farming, teaching, etc. In April, 1862, he was elected justice of the peace, and has continuously held the office up to the present time. Mr. Trescott was married to Miss Sallie A. Dodson, September 22, 1850. She was born in Luzerne county, January 21, 1829. They have had ten children, six living: Stephen O., Luther R., Amy E., William H., Lloyd F. and Edward L. The names of the deceased are: Olin R., Ada C., Harry A. and Charles F. The first was buried in Pine Grove, Pennsylvania, and the last three in Sugar Island Cemetery, Kankakee county. Mr. Trescott was formerly an old line whig, but has voted for every republican candidate for president that has been placed in the field.

A. B. Cummings, justice of the peace, Clifton, was born in Sutton, Massachusetts, April 22, 1820, his mother dying when he was but ten months old, and his little sister aged two years. They were placed in the care of a relative till he was about sixteen years old, when they were both compelled to paddle their own canoe. He drifted about till 1840, when he went to Milford and remained there till 1842, going to school. Then he went to Holliston Academy, graduating in 1844. He taught school in the east and west for twenty-two years. He came west about 1854, locating in Granville, Putnam county, Illinois, where he got his first "boost" toward prosperity, teaching there in the Granville Academy for two and a half years. He went to Wenona, Marshall county, and thence to Clifton, in this township, where he has permanently resided. He went into the coal and lumber business, and continued in active business life till 1877. He was elected justice of the peace in the spring of 1870, and is still acting in that capacity. He was married on Thanksgiving day, 1847, to Miss Emily Fowler, who was born in July, 1820, in Grafton, Massachusetts. They have two children: Robert F. and Mary. One son died, Marion P.

William A. Viets, retired, Clifton, is virtually the founder of the village of Clifton. He was born in Berkshire county, Massachusetts,



February 20, 1813. He was brought up a farmer, as was his father before him. In 1830 he went to New York, stopping five years, as a clerk; then to Cleveland, Ohio, for three years, and back again to New York, and going into business for himself till 1854. He then came to Illinois, stopping in Chicago till 1858, and from there he came to Clifton and settled, he owning some 200 acres of land. He laid out the town in 1861, at that time there being but two houses on the east side of the railroad. The town was first settled by some ten families from the east,—first-class citizens and well-to-do,—most of whom have left for other parts. Mr. Viets took great pride in decorating the town with shade trees, nearly all of which were planted by or through him. The beautiful little cemetery is, we understand, owned by him, and kept up at his own expense, he having made great outlay in ornamenting with trees, shrubbery, etc. The citizens are indebted to him to a great extent for his pride and generosity in furthering the interests and welfare of the town. He has held all the various town offices, although not very desirable positions. He was married in New York, May 17, 1836, to Miss Mary E. Pennoyer, who was born in New York city, July 21, 1816. She died in New York, March 11, 1853. September 17, 1856, he was married to Mrs. Frances N. Reeves, of Boston, in the city of Chicago. She was born in Boston, February 20, 1823. He had by first marriage: Catharine, wife of John R. Cameron, of Ottawa, Illinois; Mary P., wife of Madison H. Ferris, of Chicago; and Charlotte. By second marriage: Helen C., born in Chicago, June 22, 1857; and William H., born in Clifton, November 1, 1864, and accidentally killed, March 17, 1879, by a gunshot while out hunting. He being a bright, intelligent boy, a dutiful, a loving and an only son, it was a severe and sad blow to his fond parents and doting sisters.

Jerome Bard, merchant, Chebanse, was born in Maine, June 18, 1832. His parents were William and Mehitable (Wood) Bard. Mr. Bard lived in his native town until twenty-one years old, then moved to Massachusetts, residing there some eight or ten years, and then came out west, landing in Chicago in May, 1860, and shortly afterward came to this township, where he engaged in the purchase and shipping of grain to Chicago for a year following. He then enlisted in Co. G, 25th Ill. Vol., June 1, 1861, serving something over three years. He enlisted as a "high" private and was mustered out as an orderly-sergeant in the city of Springfield in the month of August, 1864. He was engaged in every battle his company participated in during the war, the first being that of Pea Ridge, followed successively by the battles of Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, and

numerous skirmishes on the line of march from Chattanooga to Atlanta, some of them being very heavy engagements. Shortly after reaching Atlanta his regiment turned about-face and returned to Springfield, Illinois, where they disbanded. Returning to Chebanse he clerked for six years, excepting two years, being laid up with rheumatism, since which time he has been in business for himself, having a branch store at Cabery, Kankakee county. His partner is Francis T. McKee. Mr. Bard was married to Miss Mary E. Robinson, at Kankakee, in October, 1867, by the Rev. Mr. Whitehead. He has two living children: Bertie and Shirley; and two deceased: Mabel L. and an infant. Mrs. Bard was born in Ohio in March, 1844. He has lived here nineteen years; at present is a town trustee, and has always voted the republican ticket,—Abraham Lincoln being the first presidential candidate to receive his ballot.

J. N. Frooninckx, farmer, Chebanse, was born in Lubeck, Belgium, August 30, 1823. He lived at the place of his nativity until thirty-three years of age, and attended school until he was fifteen years old, and has farmed during his life. He came to America in 1856, coming direct to Iroquois county, locating on what is known as the Belgian Farm, buying his present homestead of 160 acres in 1860. He was married in the old country, March 25, 1856, to Miss Mary A. Lefevre. She died three years after coming to this country. April 2, 1866, he was married to Miss Victoria Shanjelon; she was born in Belgium December 22, 1835. They have four children: Mary, Joseph, Emil and Gustav. He has held the position of school director, taking great interest in matters pertaining to education. He is a member of the Catholic church.

John H. Sands, assessor, Chebanse, was born in Holbeach, Lincolnshire, England, March 3, 1824, and is the son of Henry and Margaret E. (Ward) Sands. Mr. Sands served an apprenticeship as a general wood-worker, and at the age of twenty came to this country, locating in New York. He lived there until 1855, and then moved to Kendall county, Illinois, farmed five years, and then moved to the township of Chebanse in 1861, where he has continued the occupation ever since, owning 120 acres, in a good state of cultivation. In 1870 and 1871 he was elected to the position of township collector, and during the years 1876 to 1879 inclusive, held the office of assessor, which duty he has performed faithfully and well. In the fall of 1863 he entered the pioneer corps, and for eight months served in the vicinity of Chattanooga, and was discharged in July, 1864. He was married in the town of Williamsburg (now consolidated with the city of Brooklyn) September 1, 1845, to Mrs. Mary A. Smith, who was born in

the town of Tydd, St. Mary, England, May 13, 1813. They have had four children, two living: William F. W., and Margaret E. W., now the wife of Peter Wright. The two deceased were: Anna M. W. and John H. W. Mrs. Sands had, by a previous marriage, two children, both living: Mrs. Anna Bagley, of Brooklyn, born in Lincolnshire, England, May 15, 1835; and Jane L., wife of John Jackson, of this township, born in New York city, March 28, 1840. Mr. Bagley and Mr. Jackson have been through the late war, and Mr. Jackson has been a resident of this township since 1855. Mr. Sands was captain of police of the first ward of Williamsburg, the first year it became a city. He is a member of the M. E. church; of the Chebanse Lodge, No. 429, of which lodge he has held the office of Master for five years; and has always been a democrat. Mr. Bagley was killed in Washington immediately after his discharge, before he reached home, by the mere wanton act of a guard on duty—a flagrant murder.

Judson D. Miner, farmer, Chebanse, was born in the town of Proviso, Cook county, Illinois, July 28, 1850. His parents were Peter and Lavina (Ackley) Miner. With his parents he moved to Wheaton, DuPage county, he being then six years of age, and lived there till June 1861, and then moved to Chebanse, leading a farmer's life. His brother (Henry A.) died in September, 1862, while serving his country in the late war. Mr. Miner was married October 8, 1878, to Miss Eva Luella Colburn, who was born in Hillsdale, Columbia county, New York, July 21, 1853. Mr. Miner has a snug farm of 80 acres under good cultivation.

Louis Henrotin, justice of the peace, Clifton, was born at St. Hubert, in the province of Luxemburg, kingdom of Belgium, July 19, 1839. He resided there till 1859, studying medicine and graduating from the University of Liege, Belgium. In 1860 he came to America and joined his uncle in Chicago,—Dr. J. F. Henrotin, then Belgian consul. In the fall of the same year he settled in Iroquois county, and returned to Belgium in the fall of 1861, and in the spring of 1862 he returned to his adopted country. It is presumed that he went on most important business, as he was married, December 26, 1861, to Miss Amelia Lambert, who was born May 9, 1838. Clifton became their abiding place. He was grain merchant from 1862 to 1868, and then went into mercantile operations till the fall of 1870, and in the same year was elected justice of the peace. In 1871 he took another trip to Europe, with his family, remaining there nearly one year, and coming back in 1872, once more settled down to business. As a coincidence we might relate that the train that pulled him and family out of Chicago on their last



trip to Europe, at 5:15 Sunday evening, was the last that went out on that road before the "big fire," and when they arrived in Canada the electric news reached them of the dreadful conflagration. In connection with his office he holds the position of town collector. He has three children: Louisa, Amelia and Gustav. Edmund L. died October 10, 1879.

J. D. DeVeling, justice of the peace, Chebanse, was born in Coburg, Canada, December 23, 1829. His parents were John and Mary (Twig) DeVeling. He was raised in Canada, and at the age of twenty-four moved to Michigan, and after a two-years sojourn returned to Canada, and remained there till the winter of 1858-9. From there he went to southern Illinois. In September, 1861, he took up his abode in Sugar Island, and in the fall of 1863 came to this village, and has ever since resided here. He was a graduate of the Eclectic College of Cincinnati, taking two courses. Prior to going to Cincinnati he studied medicine in Canada. In 1864 he opened a drug store, which he carried on, in connection with his profession, till 1875, his son then assuming control. At one time C. C. Sawyer was a partner. He was elected police justice in the summer of 1868, for four years, and reelected in 1877, and also held the office of notary public. He was married to Joana Bebee, in Canada West, in the winter of 1849-50. They are the parents of six children, four living: Mary W., John M., W. R. and Clara A. The other two died in infancy. Mr. DeVeling's parents were from Glasgow, Scotland. In connection with his general business he is engaged in the manufacture of "Dezeng's patent no-hame wood horse-collar," of which he is the assignee of the patentee. This state is under his sole control, and he is also interested in the balance of the states. Formerly he was an independent, having published a weekly—"The Independent"—for six years, but now he is identified with the republican party.

William Hunter, retired farmer, Chebanse, was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, April 12, 1797. When two years old his parents moved to Ohio and located in what has since become Fairfield county. He farmed, worked at the cooper's and carpenter's trades, and was judge of the Lincoln county court for six years. He moved to Huntington, Indiana, where he carried on the hardware business for ten years. He came to this state in the spring of 1865, settling in Kankakee county, and in October, 1875, came to this village, living a peaceful and retired life. He has been married three times, his first wife being Miss Eliza Cisney, who died September 15, 1823; the second was Mary Ann Matlock, who died July 12, 1829, and he married his third wife, Miss Mary Ann Crane, March 5, 1830. They will have

lived together for fifty years if they survive till March 5, 1880, their golden anniversary. His present wife was born in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, September 12, 1805. Mr. Hunter has been the father of twelve children, five living: Thomas C., Emily (Mrs. James Whiteside), William J., Eliza and George C. The deceased are Allen T., Caroline E., Emeline, John, Harvey, Mary E. and an infant. He has held the office of school director. He voted for Andrew Jackson, turned whig, and is now a republican; and is a member of the Congregational church.

W. J. Hunter, jeweler and postmaster, Chebanse, was born in Ætna, Licking county, Ohio, August 5, 1842. His father is the venerable William Hunter, the oldest inhabitant in the village. At the age of twelve years he moved with his parents to Huntington, Indiana, and attended school till 1861, then enlisted in Co. F, 47th Ind. Vol. Inf. After reaching Kentucky his regiment was ordered to Bowling Green and Fort Donelson, but arrived too late to participate in their capture. Several forced marches brought his regiment to Riddle's Point, Missouri, where a siege battery was planted, and an engagement took place with some rebel gunboats, disabling three of them. At Tiptonville they intercepted the retreating forces from Island No. 10, and captured numerous prisoners. At the capture of Memphis his regiment was the first to enter that stronghold. He was also in the battles of Fort Gibson, Raymond, Champion Hill, Black River, siege of Vicksburg, Grand Canton Bayou, Fort Spanish, Fort Blakeley, and a great number of other battles, skirmishes, etc. He served his country faithfully for four years and two months, having reënlisted as a veteran, and was discharged November 3, 1865, at Indianapolis. He came to Chebanse in 1866, and clerked until he went into business for himself. He was appointed postmaster by the postmaster-general in the administration of President Grant, in June 1870, and still retains the position. He was married to Miss T. Tracey, March 5, 1871. They have two children: Addie and Effie. Mrs. Hunter was born in Erie, Erie county, Pennsylvania, November 29, 1846.

Patrick Murphy, merchant, Chebanse, was born in the county of Kilkenny, Ireland, March 17, 1851, and is the son of James and Catherine Murphy. He emigrated to this country with his parents and settled in Hinsdale, Berkshire county, Massachusetts, in the spring of 1853, he being then but two years of age. He lived there for six years, and then removed to La Salle county, Illinois, in the spring of 1859, his father dying the same year. Mr. Murphy was reared on a farm, and continued it up to the time of his moving to this township, which was on March 16, 1867, and again went to farming until 1874,

at which time he entered the employ of McKee & Bard, clerking for them for some fifteen months. He then started in the general merchandising business for himself, doing a thriving trade and carrying a full stock. He was married, by Rev. Father Gonant, of Chebanse, to Miss Bridget Clabby, May 1, 1876. They have two children: James F. and Mary L. He is a member of the town board, and is also treasurer of the Father Mathew Temperance Society. Mr. Murphy is, so to speak, a self-made man.

Thomas S. Sawyer, lawyer and editor, Chebanse, was born November 9, 1844, at Pomfret, Windham county, Connecticut. His father, Lucius E. Sawyer, was born on the same farm in 1817. His mother was a Miss Patience S. Carpenter, a native of Rhode Island. Mr. Sawyer moved with his parents to Illinois in 1856, and lived on a farm until eighteen years of age, then taught school for two years, and afterward was appointed to a clerkship in the interior department at Washington, and remained there until removed, in 1866, by Andrew Johnson for political differences. While in Washington he commenced the study of law, and pursued it after removal in the office of E. Sanford, Morris, Illinois, until June, 1867, when he was admitted to practice by the supreme court of Illinois. He was married, in the summer of 1867, to Miss Addie A. Barnes, and moved to Chebanse in the fall of 1867, where he has since resided. He has three children: Lucius Clyde, Patience Aileen and Thomas Roy, all living. Mr. Sawyer has held the office of supervisor for four years; been member of the village trustees — last two years as president of the board; and represented the counties of Kankakee and Iroquois in the twenty-eighth general assembly. In 1869 he commenced the publication of the Chebanse "Herald," a weekly, and has published it regularly since that time. It is a republican sheet.

John Milton Balthis, proprietor of Orchard Farm, Chebanse, was born October 5, 1827, in Putnam, Muskingum county, Ohio. His father, Major John Balthis, was from Strasburg, Shenandoah county, Virginia, and settled on the banks of the Muskingum river, about 1812, on the present site of Putnam, Ohio, which at that time was the abode of many Indians. The name Putnam was given to the town in honor of his pioneer friend, Judge Rufus Putnam, a direct descendant of old Israel Putnam, of Wolfden notoriety. These two pioneers, together with Philip Zane, Increase Mathews, Horace Nye and Catherine Buckingham, were the proprietors of what is now one of the most beautiful and prosperous towns in Ohio, and laid a social foundation evidencing the sterling traits in their characters. Politically, John Balthis was a stanch old-line whig, and was commissioned a major of



Ohio militia by Governor Trimble, and served many years in that capacity; was for about forty years a member of the town council of Putnam, and a staunch unflinching friend of truth and virtue, which he illustrated through a long life. To his family and friends, of him it might be said:

“ His life was gentle, and the elements  
So mixed in him that Nature might stand up  
And say to all the world, ‘ This was a man.’ ”

He died in 1873, seventy-six years old, and left a widow, Lenity Balthis, who was from Portland, Maine, who shared all his privations in early life, and whose charitable, kindly disposition, relieved the wants of many all through her life, and whose children drop a tear in remembering her gentle ministrations to all their wants through years of great bodily afflictions, which it was hers to bear. Her maiden name was Morton. She died in 1873, three weeks later than her husband, aged sixty-seven, and in the beautiful Woodlawn cemetery, Putnam, Ohio, a fine granite monument marks their grave, inscribed as follows:

“ OUR FATHER AND MOTHER.”

“ Oh that those lips had language !  
Life has passed but roughly with us since we saw thee last.”

By your children: Calvin C., Esther, Eliza Ann, John Milton, Amanda, William, Adeline, Columbia A., Albert Leroy.

John Milton Balthis was married May 1, 1849, to Susannah Olivia Hamilton, daughter of Rev. Samuel Hamilton, presiding elder in the Ohio conference for over forty years, as the publications of the M. E. Book Concern, of Cincinnati, show, and one of the ablest councilors and earnest, successful preachers in the conference; of sterling traits of character, whose fund of anecdote and incidents of early pioneer preacher's life are the history of the church in Ohio and Virginia. He a native of Maryland. He, at the early date spoken of, pitched his tent with his brothers in the unbroken forests of Hopewell township, Muskingum county, Ohio, ten miles of Zanesville, and dedicated their home to God in the great timber, amid a storm and all the solemnity of the wilderness around them. He lived to see prosperity all around him. Mr. Hamilton married Edith Harrison, of Harrisonburg, Virginia, daughter of Robert Harrison, a relative of General, afterward President, Harrison; a woman of gentle graces and fine influence, lamented at death by all who knew her. Her death long preceded Mr. Hamilton, who died in 1853, aged sixty-three years, and is buried on the family homestead, near Asbury chapel, Hopewell township, Muskingum county, Ohio. Mr. Hamilton is buried in the old cemetery at Somerset,

Perry county, Ohio. Their children are: Sarah, Jane, Susan, Edith, Martha and Mary. Susannah received her education at Putnam Female Seminary, together with earlier learning in the schools of her native home township. John Milton Balthis received his schooling in the public schools of Putnam and at the McIntire Academy of Zanesville, Ohio. At an early period his taste led him to a blacksmith, where he forged out a rude set of engraving tools, with which he engraved drawings of his own, and transfers on wood. These coming to the notice of Uriah Park, editor of the Zanesville "Gazette" (the most influential paper in central Ohio), once author of Park's arithmetic, pleased our editor, and he forthwith employed the young artist to make some diagrams for his book; and so well was he pleased with the illustrations that he insisted on giving him letters of credit and recommendation, which stated to Messrs. Doolittle & Munson, that it introduced a young friend of irreproachable character, the phraseology of which our young artist has never forgotten, and which secured for him a desk in the office of the first bank-note and wood engravers west of the mountains and in Cincinnati. During the time in the engraving office our artist illustrated the Ladies' Repository of the M. E. Book Concern, works on natural history, and the "Twelve Months Volunteer," a "History of the War with Mexico," and a great many other engravings for various purposes, also Robinson's system of school-books. The association with artists in Cincinnati, and his free access to the Western Art Union gallery, had developed in the mind of our engraver a taste for the beautiful, in nature and art, which is always present; and he can truly say that to him now on the farm, "a thing of beauty is a joy forever"; and the ever-varying moods of natural scenery, the deep-vaulted, starry sky, and all the harmonies of nature, are sources of inexpressible joy; hence farm life and rural scenes are where he prefers to pass his life. From Cincinnati, in 1853, he went to Cleveland, Ohio, engaging in the dry-goods business; from there to Zanesville, and thence to Oskaloosa, Iowa, where wild lands he owned demanded attention. Believing that Illinois was the best field for his enterprises he settled on a beautiful farm in Copley township, Knox county, Illinois, where he resided when the war of the rebellion broke out, and being all his life a staunch whig and republican, the fire on Sumter called every man to show his colors; and the heated discussions that followed, between loyal men and copperheads (so called), found in Mr. Balthis a warm and earnest champion for the Union cause, and so pronounced was he in his denunciations of the disloyal sentiments of those who opposed the war, that his township republicans nominated him unanimously for the office of supervisor (where supplies had to be voted for, for support of the

brave soldiers' families, and earnest talk to be done to beat back disloyal utterances), and when the vote was counted on the day of election, Mr. Balthis received every loyal vote of his township. He took his seat in the board, and the records of the meetings show that not a vote of his gave aid and comfort to the enemies of his country; the journals showing his voice raised always in defense of her integrity, and he prides himself on this record. To show the estimation in which Mr. Balthis was held during these trying times, by the loyal people of Knox county, we insert here a comment, published in the Knoxville "Gazette," a loyal and leading paper, of a convention held in the court-house at Knoxville, in defense of the union cause, of which Mr. Balthis was unanimously chosen secretary, and J. D. Hand, president. "The unconditional Union convention, which was held at the court-house last Saturday, to nominate candidates to be supported at the November election, was composed of ninety-three delegates, representing eighteen out of the twenty townships of the county. The delegates were men of intelligence, fully comprehending the situation of the country, and firmly determined to throw the whole influence of the county on the side of the administration in their efforts to preserve its dignity and unity, by vigorously prosecuting the war for the suppression of the rebellion. The convention was a Union convention in name, spirit and fact; not a bastard production like that by which some of our truly loyal citizens were entrapped two years ago; and the people of the county may implicitly rely on the assurance that its nominees, before or after the election, will not be found bearing disloyal badges, in the shape of copperhead pins, or taking part in traitorous assemblages, and siding, framing and passing infamous resolutions of resistance to the authorities in putting down rebellion. They are for the country all the time. They are union in heart and in backbone, and will default in no demand made upon them by a pure patriotism." Mr. Balthis represented his township also in the above convention and held the office of supervisor a number of years, when he resigned and went into business in Chicago. In 1867 he removed to his 320 acres of wild land near Clifton to carry out a long cherished desire to realize the "deep pleasures of the rural life," and to show himself what his indomitable perseverance has brought about. We extract from the Chicago "Tribune" the description of his farm and career, written by the Hon. M. L. Dunlap, of Champaign county: "Here is a man by trade an engraver, but as he could not brook such close confinement he left it for another business, and trusting to a few thousand dollars from savings of his labor and his business tact, he made the venture. Every plan was carefully considered; every



improvement proposed had to be subjected to figures, and every day's labor was applied to some useful end. His house is substantial and elegant; its rooms contain an elegant piano, and another hundreds of volumes of valuable works. He kept steadily at his task, through summer's sun and winter's frost. In the field and the garden, in the hauling of building material, in the marketing of hay and corn he played the working farmer, and has carved out one of the most pleasant and comfortable homes that gladden the 'Grand Prairie.'" His artistic taste finds great enjoyment in natural scenes; in nature's art gallery, he is pleased. We extract from a leading county paper an editorial visit to the farm: "The beautiful 'Orchard Farm' was reached about one o'clock, and Mr. J. M. Balthis, its big-hearted proprietor, received us with as hearty a welcome as the father in scripture gave his prodigal son. In a few minutes the whole party felt perfectly at home in the elegant and nicely furnished house. We will not make your mouth water with a description of the good things we enjoyed while there, for fear we will not do justice to the magnificent 'Orchard Farm,' its well informed proprietor, his amiable lady and their intelligent family. The place is appropriately named, and though only eight years old, its thrifty orchard of 1,000 trees is one of the finest we ever saw. The fields slope gently to the south, and the farm presents a rich, productive appearance even such a year as this. Five hours swiftly passed, while the party also had the pleasure of examining many art specimens of Mr. Balthis, who is an artist of more than ordinary talent, and was once a skillful engraver in Cincinnati, whose associates were Sontagg, White, Grosvenor, Whiteridges, Stillman, and the artists of the 'Western Union Art Gallery.'" Mr. Balthis is the father of six children: Althea, Vernon, Alberta, Estella, Jenny Lind, Fanny, Edith and Harry Hamilton, who was, May, 1879, appointed a cadet midshipman in United States Naval Academy, at Annapolis, Maryland, from the eighth congressional district of Illinois, by the Hon. G. L. Fort. Young Balthis passed a most creditable examination in June, 1879. In conclusion, we deem the above details of a successful life due to one of Iroquois county's most enterprising farmers, showing what well directed effort can do, coupled with untiring industry and integrity of character, to build up a state which is formed of "substantial citizens."

Erick Nelson (deceased) was born in Norway January 6, 1821. He came to America in 1839, going back in 1847, and returning again in 1848. He settled in Yorkville, Kendall county, New York, following the business of farming. In the month of February, 1868, he moved with his family to this township, locating where his family now reside, on the homestead, containing 80 acres, with a 240-acre tract on the



Respectfully  
John Milton Balthus.

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east. He built a nice, roomy residence at the time of settling, and it is a great pity his life could not have been spared to reap the reward of his labors in the society of his interesting family. He died March 6, 1878, and was buried with Masonic honors. He was married in Christiania, Norway, February 19, 1848, to Miss Isabel Anderson, who was born October 14, 1827. He left to mourn his loss a wife and ten children: Mary, wife of Joseph Yates, deceased; Caroline, wife of Thomas Thorston; Sarah, wife of Lester Phelps; Andrew; Tina, wife of Samuel Heather; Ella, Anna, Emma, Lyda and Charley. Jennie died, aged one year, August 30, 1864. Mr. Nelson was brought up as a Lutheran,—the laws of Norway making it obligatory on the part of parents to send their children, both male and female, to school until a certain age, where they were compelled to receive a ministerial education.

Joseph Yates (deceased) was born in the town of Mohawk, Montgomery county, New York, January 20, 1842. He enlisted in the army in Wisconsin, August 15, 1862, and was discharged March 26, 1863, on account of sickness, and sent home. At Chicago he was under the physician's care for seven months. He died August 10, 1879. He was married to Miss Mary Nelson May 27, 1877, who was born November 16, 1848. He leaves behind to grieve over his untimely calling off a loving wife, and one daughter, Aileen, who was born October 30, 1878.

B. J. Wakeman, nurseryman and florist, Chebanse, was born January 15, 1840, in the town of Addison, Du Page county, Illinois. He lived with his parents till nineteen years of age, at which time he enlisted in Co. B, 33d Ill. Inf., under command of Col. Hovey. He was engaged in eighteen battles, some of the principal ones being: Pea Ridge, Grand Gulf, Port Gibson, Raymond, Jackson, Champion Hill and Black River,—all being fought in seven consecutive days. He was also at the siege of Vicksburg, capture of Mobile and numerous other engagements. He was discharged and reënlisted as a "vet" in Texas, serving in all four and a half years, and was finally discharged in the winter of 1866. Returning home he remained two years, then came to Chebanse in 1868, going into the nursery business, having an eighty-acre tract, several acres of which are devoted to his nursery. By honorable dealings and good stock he has worked himself a fine trade, and no doubt he deserves it. He was married December 27, 1868, to Miss Etta A. Root, who was born in Albion, Orleans county, New York, August 9, 1845. They have four children: Mary A., Lena A., Grace M. and George C. Mr. Wakeman belongs to no order, except the Chebanse Silver Cornet Band.

Geo. W. Trask, Sr., farmer, Chebanse, was borne in Hampshire county, Massachusetts, April 29, 1827. His parents were Norman and Lucretia M. (Brace) Trask. He was raised on a farm, but has worked in all branches of the wool-manufacturing business, and came west September 11, 1856, stopping some three years at Princeton, Bureau county, Illinois, going from there to Grundy county, staying ten years. In 1869 he came to this county, locating on his present farm, containing 320 acres, raising corn, oats and flax. He was married July 4, 1851, to Miss Emily Bacon, who was born in Ware village, Massachusetts, November 24, 1835. Her mother, Mrs. Mercy Bacon, was born in Brimfield, Massachusetts, in 1802, and is still living with her daughter. Mr. Trask has been school director for nine years. He has four children: Frank H., George W., Jr., Eugene A. and Freddie.

Erastus Roadifer, liveryman, Chebanse, was born in Fairfield county, Ohio, April 11, 1843. His parents were Daniel and Rhoda (Hough) Roadifer. His father was a native of Virginia, who was born in 1803, and is still hale and hearty. Mr. Erastus Roadifer resided in the county of Fairfield till 1855, when, with his parents, he moved to La Salle county, Illinois. He there followed the pursuit of farming until 1869, and then came to Chebanse, where he has since resided, carrying on the livery business, being the principal one in the place. He is a good citizen and an upright business man.

William W. Gray, farmer and stock-raiser, Chebanse, is worthy of a place in the history of Iroquois county. He was born on the Isle of Wight, England, December 13, 1824. Isaac and Sarah (Hawkins) Gray were his parents. At the age of sixteen he emigrated to this country with father and mother, stopping in Ohio one winter, and located in Rush county, Indiana, in 1831. In 1837 he moved to Adams county, Illinois, to what is now called Coatsburg. He was brought up on a farm, and his school facilities were none of the best. When about twenty years of age he moved to New Diggings, Wisconsin, and teamed, bought and hauled lead ore for three years. While in New Diggings he married Miss Electa M. Slayton, October 24, 1847. She was born March 24, 1824, in Allegheny county, New York. In company with his wife he returned to Adams county, stopping there till 1870, when he and family moved to Chebanse township, living in the same house up till the present time, having 720 acres and good out-buildings. He and his sons are extensively engaged in the raising of Percheron Norman horses and Hereford cattle. He has held the office of road commissioner, school director and school trustee, and has been a member of the M. E. church for thirty-seven years; steward, class-leader, and delegate to the annual conference held at Monmouth in

1879. In politics he is a republican. He has been the father of eleven children, eight living: Isaac N.; Sarah M., wife of P. S. De Witt, of Will county; Anna C., wife of Alonzo Hammond, of Kankakee county; George H., Alice L., William W., Owen L. and Ira L.; the deceased were: Charles W., William H. and John L.

Rev. Charles Gonant, pastor of SS. Mary and Joseph Church, Chebanse, was born January 25, 1836, in the province of Lorraine, France. He prepared for the ministry in the city of Nancy, when, at the age of twenty-two, he went to Dublin and spent six months in his studies at the All Hallows College, and then left the country of his birth and came to America in 1858, landing in Alton, and after due time was ordained by the first bishop of Alton (Bishop Juncker) in the same year. He was in Springfield for some three months in 1858, after which time he had charge of congregations in Decatur, Assumption and Litchfield. After leaving Litchfield, in 1871, he returned to France to attend affairs incident to the death of his father, and then returned to this country in 1872. After his return home he became the assistant of Father O'Neill, of Chicago, and faithfully and well performed the duty assigned him for the six months following. He then removed to Chebanse in 1872, where he has held charge and resided ever since. He has charge, also, of the Clifton parish, consisting of 150 families, and the parish of Chebanse, containing 100. When Father Gonant came here, the church edifice was but a mere shell, but through his energy and good management he soon completed the building, containing ample grounds, also the parsonage adjoining. The church is the neatest in the town, and great credit is due him for its early completion. He is also president of the Father Mathew Temperance Society, which numbers fifty-seven members, and has been the means of doing a great deal to advance the temperance cause in this place.

John F. Grosse, deceased, was born in Prussia, Germany, January 18, 1838, and emigrated to America in 1856, and located in Bloom, Cook county, Illinois, and worked at farm work until the breaking out of the war of the rebellion, when he enlisted in the 36th Ill. Inf., and served his adopted country faithfully until his health failed him. He was discharged from his command for disability, and returned to Illinois and settled in the town of Waltham, La Salle county, where he engaged in farming, and continued at it until his brother Henry moved to Chebanse, Iroquois county, Illinois, to engage in mercantile life, where he resided until his death. He was a pensioner for many years before his death, on account of disability from sickness, contracted while engaged in the defense of his adopted country. He married in Ottawa, Illinois, September 4, 1864, Miss



Anna Rabenstein, who was born November 2, 1841, in Sachsen Weimar, Germany, and emigrated to America in 1863, and resided with her father and brothers in Ottawa, Illinois, until she was married. She settled with her husband in Chebanse, and the two worked together in the mercantile business about nine years. By this united effort and economy they accumulated a sufficiency of this world's goods to keep the children comfortably. They had born to them several children, only two of whom survive: Alfred Charles, who was born May 19, 1866, at Chebanse; and Victoria, born September 27, 1870, at Chebanse. John F. Grosse suffered a long and lingering illness of about two years, contracted in the army, and after seeking health in Texas, died October 23, 1874, at Chebanse, of consumption. At the day of his death he was thirty-six years, nine months and five days old.

#### OLD SETTLERS' REUNION.

In November, 1878, the old settlers of Chebanse had a reunion, which was held in DeVelings' Hall. About two hundred persons sat down to a good dinner, and many happy greetings took place. The Chebanse Cornet Band furnished the music, and quite a number of old settlers made speeches. Memories of old times were revived, and it was a very enjoyable occasion. An Old Settlers' Association was organized, with Luther Gubtail, president, and Joseph Haigh, secretary.

The second annual reunion took place in September, 1879. It was held in Chapman's Grove in the day time, and in DeVelings' Hall in the evening. The following poem was read by Joseph Haigh, Esq., at the first meeting, and was received with hearty applause:

#### OLD SETTLERS' REUNION.

BY JOSEPH HAIGH.

Columbus, centuries ago,  
 Discovered this great land;  
 But you and I and others know,  
 He stood not where we stand.  
 He traveled mostly on the coast,  
 Well pleased with what he found;  
 But after him there came a host  
 Who traversed all the ground.  
 But you and I, old SETTLERS all,  
 To help the cause advance,  
 Were left to settle and improve  
 This famous place, Chebanse.  
 And many ups and downs we had,  
 Oft ready to despair;

But future hopes would make us glad,  
 And raise our load of care.  
 We well remember this vast plain  
 With scarce a house in view,  
 And went to work with might and main,  
 To see what we could do.  
 The sturdy sod was made to yield,  
 That corn and fruit might grow,  
 And soon a "shanty" and a field  
 Each one could proudly show.  
 Hard was the toil, the fare not best,  
 And rife with doubts and fears.  
 This country then was the FAR WEST,  
 And we, the PIONEERS.

The prairie wolves at night would howl,  
And deer then roamed at will,  
Wild chickens, ducks and other fowl,  
All that we wished to kill.

Our cattle roamed for miles around,  
Upon the wild domain,—  
Few roads or fences then were found,  
Their movements to restrain.

The folks enjoyed themselves—tho' few,  
More social than to-day;  
Both friends and country then were new,  
And everything looked gay.

'Tis more than twenty years since then,  
And what do we behold?  
The children have grown up to men,  
And young folks have grown old.

But greater still the progress made,  
As seen on every hand;  
A wilderness, by our own aid  
Is made a fruitful land.

The very town-site of Chebanse,  
Was vacant prairie land,

Without a store or business chance,  
For there was no demand.

Little by little, trade began,  
Demand and then supply,  
Till not another village can  
In commerce rank so high.

The country too has prospered well,  
Extending far and wide,  
For fruitful farms, as all can tell,  
Are every nation's pride.

And numbers who commenced with us,  
Still further west did roam,  
And some went east, and north and south,  
And some to their long home.

But we, who staid until the last,  
And have come here to-night,  
Can now review the busy past  
With pleasure and delight.

But once is all that you and I  
Would act the pioneer,  
And we prefer to live and die,  
And then be buried here.

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## MILK'S GROVE TOWNSHIP.

Milk's Grove is the northwestern town in the county, and is bounded on the north by Kankakee county, on the east by Chebanse, on the south by Ashkum, and on the west by Ford county. Its legal description is town 29, range 10 east, and the north third of town 28, range 10 east of the third principal meridian, embracing territory equal to a congressional township. Its name was derived from the small grove of about 300 acres in sections 23 and 26 of town 29, and which was one of those singular, lone bodies of timber, away from others, not upon any running water, which put the theories of those who explain the phenomena of timber growths to a severe test. There is at this grove a small lake, and these circumstances made it an available place for early cattle operations. Col. William Howard, of Owasco, Cayuga county, New York, entered sometime late in the forties 80 acres in each of sections 23 and 26, as a place of shelter for his herd. At that time the grove was known as "Hickory Grove." Col. Howard, though its first purchaser, never lived here. He was engaged in that line of business known in those days as that of drover, buying up and driving to market whatever would go on the hoof, but generally, of course, cattle and sheep. He knew

by a look the points of a good animal or a good boy. He thought he had found in the lad a good specimen when he took Lemuel Milk as a partner, and the subsequent history of the boy shows that Col. Howard's judgment was quite accurate. For several years they were partners, and during that time Milk ranged over New York and Ohio, buying any thing which he "saw money in." Some sheep which were purchased by Mr. Howard in Ohio were driven here, and Mr. Rutledge H. Enos, now of Kankakee, came here as the representative of Col. Howard, remaining here for several years. The grove then naturally came to be called Enos' Grove. Sheep was the principal line of husbandry, at first. The ewes were brought here, and for some years were let upon shares to those who would take charge of them, the renter giving two pounds of wool per head per annum, and making good all losses, making a very fair arrangement for both parties. The principal care of sheep in those days, when range was boundless, was to protect them from wolves and from the various diseases which they were liable to. Against the former, constant watching by day was necessary. They call it herding now; but in those days boys had to "watch sheep." By night they were shut in high rail-pens, ten or twelve rails high, made so that a wolf could not get through it. Sheep cared for in this way were comparatively safe, until the coming of a "higher civilization" brought the inevitable dog.

In 1850 Col. Howard proposed to Mr. Milk to buy out half of his interest at the Grove. It is a sufficient commentary on the two men who had for some years been in business together, and showing the mutual estimation each had for the other, that Col. Howard advised the young man to go west where he would have a field equal at least to his energy and peculiar abilities, and that Mr. Milk bought the half interest in the land and stock here without seeing it, entirely on the representation of Mr. Howard. Seldom did a mutual confidence rest on a better foundation. Mr. Milk gave \$3,750 for the half interest, and at the same time Howard transferred to his son a half of his remaining interest. Land had been added to the original purchase, so that, at the time of Col. Howard's death, 1,320 acres comprised the Grove Farm.

In the spring of 1851 Milk came here solitary and alone, and across lots. He came by the usual method of travel in those days (for in 1851 Chicago had no railroad), to Joliet; thence to Dr. Todd's, this side of Wilmington. The old stage route ran then from Joliet, via Wilmington, Bourbonnais, Middleport, thence to North Fork and Danville. He picked his way along the river to J. B. Hawkins',



where was the old lime-stone post-office, an advanced outpost of civilization. Thence on a bright Sunday morning in April, with the soil thoroughly soaked with the continued rains of that season, Mr. Milk struck out into the unknown wild, with a horse to ride and a boy to guide,—both of which were loaned him by Mr. Hawkins,—through the barrens to find Pilot Grove, the home then of Morey F. Frink, but which had previously been owned by Mr. Hawkins. His horse sank under him in the quicksands, and his heart began to sink in him, as, drawing nearer the place of his earthly possessions, he came into such an unearthly country. He had to dismount and pull his horse out of the sands. Our traveler, however, worked his passage like the boy driving on the canal, until he reached solid land and Pilot Grove. Arriving, finally, at the residence of Mr. Enos, he of course made a careful inspection of the possessions and flocks and herds which he had purchased on the faith of Col. Howard's representations, and was thoroughly satisfied with his investments. The grove and lake were about what he had expected: but the beauty of the hill and valley landscape off to the north and west, the grand stretch of plain off to the south, for miles, the miles of gently rolling prairie, extending east to the Iroquois, twelve miles away, just growing green under the warm April showers, were beyond the power of immediate comprehension.

Certainly, in a state of nature, man could not have found in all this vast prairie region a more beautiful or alluring location than this, for five miles on every side of Hickory Grove. From the elevated position, two miles west of the grove, where the town-house now stands, as grand and extensive a view could be had as the human eye could well take in. Not a house could be seen at that time, save the one in which Mr. Enos resided. The nearest neighbor was eight miles away,—Mr. Frink, at Pilot Grove. With the first break of day the grand "boom" of the prairie fowls, which now has so nearly passed away that many of the residents in Illinois have never heard it, and in all probability never will, resounded in all directions. No writer was ever known to describe it, and the present one does not propose to try it. It was not like any other sound or reverberation in nature or in civilization: a continued "boom," kept up for an hour or more,—musical without being melodious, and grand without being exciting.

Mr. Milk was more than pleased with the view and the prospect. Here was room for the display of all the energy and business activity of the most ambitious. He had an ambition, not for wealth, though wealth had come to him, but for business activity, for flocks and

herds, which could grow fat on this boundless wealth which grew spontaneously on these hills and valleys, an ambition for extensive and large enterprises which should fully occupy his active mind and full physical powers. In both of these respects his ambition has been filled. He is one of the few really remarkable men of the state. The right man, the right place, and the right time met at Milk's Grove in 1851. Here were all the conditions for a full realization of all the hopes and anticipations any mortal could have. He was in his sphere, and grandly has he filled it. With the death of Col. Howard in 1853, Mr. Milk bought the interest of his son and widow. Howard had left a will which had bequeathed in three lines of writing all his real and personal property of every kind to his widow. The landed estate at the Grove then amounted to 1,320 acres. The land around here had then been withdrawn from market by the act which organized the Central railroad, but it was soon after thrown open for sale.

Wolves were the great pest of this time. Many were the incidents which the keepers of the flocks had with them. Lawrence Myron, who was then in the employ of Mr. Milk, was returning late one evening. Mistaking the scattering timber along Langham creek for the grove, he made for it just in time to be surrounded by a pack of hungry fellows, who would like to have made a supper of him if he had been willing. With nothing but a knife to defend himself with, he marched in single file, at double quick, with the point of the knife thrown out as a rear guard, and thought he was accomplishing as successful a retreat as did the ten thousand Greeks; though Larry knew little of Greek, his rear-guard did duty nobly, and he escaped without a scratch.

For several years after Mr. Milk came here, sheep were the principal stock, but soon cattle became his largest interest. His landed interest grew with the rest. He purchased later a considerable tract of the county lands of Dr. Wilson, who had purchased of Mr. Tollman all that he owned in this part of the county. The grove supplied timber enough for fencing and fuel, and he soon had large fields of corn growing. The owners of the distillery at Wilmington sent teams and men to husk his crop, paying him 25 cents per bushel for it on the stalk. Wool was a profitable crop for him. By the custom here, he received two pounds per head for rent of sheep. The price was usually from 30 to 40 cents per pound, and was marketed in Joliet.

When the war began, Mr. Milk was in good shape to realize the good prices which the war caused. He had then 1,300 head of neat



*Leonce Hill*



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cattle, one thousand of which (averaging 1,100 pounds) he sold for \$55 per head, which would indicate that in ten years he had prospered fairly. The years which followed were full of business activity, great deals in cattle and live stock followed each other, and, with prices constantly enhancing, these were sufficiently successful.

His practice has been to buy, instead of raise, cattle and feed them at three years old. The home farm at the grove has always been under his own management; the others are rented. The houses and buildings on his farms are all good, better than we usually find on rented farms. His theory is that he can secure a better class of renters by liberal provisions for their wants, a result which he has certainly obtained. In 1870 he commenced a system of draining the flat lands lying south from the grove, and has followed it up very effectively. A main ditch was run into Langham creek, and laterals from all directions lead into it. Few men have had a larger experience, and none have found the advantages coming from thorough and systematic ditching more encouraging.

His feeding has been carried on on the most extensive scale,—stall-feeding as many as 1,300 head of cattle in a single season, with thousands of hogs. The present winter he is feeding 5,000 sheep, intending to have them ready for the spring market. To carry on this successfully, his farms are supplied with good sheds, and some of them with excellent barns.

He has about fifty farms, ranging in size from 80 acres to a section, not all of which, however, are in this township, and his especial pride is to have them kept neat in general appearance and clean in culture.

The general filling up of the township did not occur until quite recently. Its first settler was Mr. R. H. Enos, who had charge of the farm when it was first bought by Col. Howard, and continued in charge of it for some years after Mr. Milk became interested in it.

The township was set off as a separate town in 1872. There was from the first an aversion to serving as township officers, which has not yet been overcome, though the voters have been fortunate in finding in Mr. B. W. Gilborne a man who was willing to sacrifice his own personal peace to attend to the affairs of the public.

At the first election, R. C. Munger was chosen supervisor; B. W. Gilborne, clerk; Samuel Walker, assessor; C. W. Sumner, collector; and R. C. Munger, justice of the peace. The present officers are B. W. Gilborne, supervisor, assessor and justice of the peace; C. W. Sumner, clerk; and F. M. Laughlin, collector.

## BIOGRAPHICAL.

Lemuel Milk, farmer, stock-raiser and general merchant, Chebanse, whose portrait appears in this work, was born in Ledgyard township, Cayuga county, New York, October 18, 1820. His father was born in Westport, Massachusetts, and his mother (formerly Miss Mary Hathaway) was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts. At the age of two years, Mr. Milk moved with his parents to the town of Fleming, Cayuga county, New York, where they lived in a log house for six years. After residing in said town for twenty-eight years, farming, raising and driving stock, he removed to this state and settled in what was formerly known as Hickory and Enos' Grove, but afterward changed to Milk's Grove township, its present name, it being called after himself. He bought a half interest of Col. William Howard in the said grove, which at that time contained 160 acres. After the death of Mr. Howard, he bought the undivided half of the heirs, which contained 1,320 acres. By steadily increasing his landed domain, he soon became the possessor of 9,000 acres in one body, but in 1875 he commenced selling off, reducing this immense tract to 6,000 acres. He has several other farms in this county, store property and lots in the village of Chebanse, over 1,000 acres in Kankakee county, as well as other property in Kankakee, Wilmington, Manteno and Chicago, and also 12,000 acres in one body in Indiana. Besides his half-dozen-stores-in-one in Chebanse, he raises great quantities of wheat, corn, oats, hay, flax, etc., all of which, not used by him, finds its way to the Chicago markets. Mr. Milk does not confine himself alone to farming and merchandising, but deals heavily in stock, having at the present writing (1880) some 200 horses, 500 head of cattle, 1,200 hogs, and 5,250 sheep. He is by all odds one of the most noted, as well as one of the most extensive farmers and stock-dealers in the state of Illinois, if not in the West. His Illinois land alone, if sold before the last financial crisis, would have brought him the magnificent sum of \$500,000 and upward,—so much for grit, energy and thrift. He was married to Miss Jane A. Platt, June 1, 1854, she being a native of Butternut, Otsego county, New York, and was born May 20, 1831. They have been blessed with two children, both living: Jennie M. and Sherwood P. Mr. Milk never held public office, not being a chronic office-seeker, neither has he been a member of any denomination. In his early days he voted the democratic ticket, but in later years he cast his vote with the republican party. Although not in the army, he rendered his country valuable service in the way of contributions, etc., for the purpose of raising troops



in the late war. Although he carries on mercantile business here, and heavy farming operations in Milk's Grove and surrounding country, his family reside in Kankakee city.

William Walsh, farmer, Chebanse, was born in the county of Dublin, Ireland, on January 12, 1834. His father was John, and his mother was Bridget (Lynch) Walsh. All the education Mr. Walsh received, was obtained in Ireland, and he was brought up on a farm. In 1855 he came to this country, making direct for this township, and working for Mr. Milk for two years — the first work performed after coming here. His next move was to Chebanse, working four years on the railroad. He then returned to the Grove and remained for four years, and then bought his present place of 160 acres of Mr. Milk. He was married in Chebanse, on May 2, 1860, to Miss Catharine Gallagher, who was born in the county of Dublin, Ireland, in 1836. They have six children: Charles, John, Mary H., William, Edward, and Robert; deceased, Emeline.

Joseph Wadleigh, farmer, Herscher, Kankakee county, is one of the heaviest land-owners in the township. He was born in New York, June 2, 1817. When quite young his parents moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, living there a number of years, then moving to Oxford, Butler county, Ohio. His parents having gone to their last resting place, Mr. Wadleigh, in the summer of 1847, crossed the plains to Oregon, in a train of forty wagons, under command of Capt. Hawes, their conveyance being of the most primitive character. Oxen drew them to their destination, the trip taking some five months' time. Being a tinsmith, he opened the first establishment of that kind in that locality, and remained one year. In 1848 he got the gold fever,—it being epidemic. He left Portland, Oregon, in a sail-vessel, reaching California in October. He located at Suters Fort (now Sacramento City) and went into the tinsmithing business. He made the surveyor's chain that was used in laying out the city. He mined but a day and a half, his trade being worth upward of \$100 a day, an ordinary milk-pan selling for an ounce of gold. One year thereafter, he returned via Panama and New York, to his home in Oxford, Ohio, and in 1859 moved to Kankakee, and the next spring to this township. He was married in Hamilton, Ohio, July 27, 1851, to Miss M. J. Morey, who was born in Somerville, Butler county, Ohio, December 12, 1829. They have seven children: Romeo F., Theodore S., Josephine, William M., Robert W., Henry L., and Sheridan J. He has been school-treasurer since 1866. His farm consists of 1,600 acres, with good house, out-buildings, etc. He rents two tenant houses, also land to smaller owners

adjoining. His first house was a double one, one end being occupied by himself and family, and the adjoining room used as a barn. A great change has been wrought during the past twenty years.

Theodore Wheeler is one of the leading farmers and stock-raisers of this township. He has a magnificent farm of 320 acres; a fine residence, large granaries, out-houses, etc., and a fine orchard containing 1,500 bearing trees, from which he gathers a crop of 1,500 to 2,000 bushels yearly, and makes some twenty barrels of cider. His farm lies on the sectional line dividing Milk's Grove from Chebanse township. He raises nearly everything a farm produces, his principal crop being corn, which he feeds to his stock, he dealing extensively in horses, cattle, sheep and hogs. He was born on the Mohawk river, state of New York, on September 27, 1830. He was raised on a farm, and lived at the place of his birth till 1853. Coming west he worked three years in Edgar county, Illinois; then returned east, and June 26, 1859, he was married to Miss Elizabeth Andrews, who was born May 19, 1844, in the birthplace of her husband. In the fall of 1860 they came to Illinois, stopping two years in Salina township, Kankakee county, and in the spring of 1863 moved to his present residence. When he located the county was mostly a wild, uncultivated waste, not a house to be found for some fifteen miles to the south, and on the west it took nearly a half day's journey to reach the house of a neighbor. He has never craved office, but has held the position of school director for some time. He has two children: Willard A. and Elma.

William S. Wood, farmer, Clifton, is a native of Orkney Isles, Scotland, and his wife was Miss Margaret Russell, and was born and raised twenty miles from Edinburgh, Scotland. Mr. Wood came to the United States in the month of July, 1852, stopping a year and a half in the state of New York, then moved to Bloomington and other points in this state, and finally brought up at Milk's Grove township, this county, in 1868, settling down on his present homestead. His residence being on an eminence sufficiently high to give him a magnificent view of the lowlands, he can, on a clear day, see for a distance of fifteen or twenty miles. By dint of industry and economy, Mr. Wood has secured himself and family a comfortable home. They have two children: Isabella and Arthur; two deceased: Ada and Caroline.

Richard Duckworth, farmer, Chebanse, is a well-known and prominent resident of this township. He was born in New Hartford, Oneida county, New York, April 14, 1834. His parents were George and Mary (Nuttall) Duckworth, both natives of Lancashire, England. His

father, who is still living, was born in 1796, and his mother in 1806. Mr. Duckworth was two years of age when his parents removed to Lisbon, La Salle (now Kendall) county, in 1836, and remained with them till twenty-two years of age, then went to work on his own farm in Grundy county, and moved on his farm in Milk's Grove in 1868, where he still resides. He has a beautiful place, handsome residence, good barns, finely laid out yard, dotted with evergreens, etc., and has 240 acres. He enlisted September 18, 1861, in Co. K, 8th Ill. Cav., commanded by John F. Farnsworth. It was organized in St. Charles, Kane county, and joined the army of the Potomac under Gen. McClellan. He served three years, and was under fire 106 times, without receiving a wound. Some of the principal battles he was engaged in were: Williamsburgh, Baltimore Crossroads, Fair Oaks, Richmond, Turkey Creek, Malvern Hill, Second Bull Run, South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Falling Waters, and all the engagements his regiment participated in, and never missed a day's service while it was in active operation. He lost two horses, one being shot from under him. He was married April 11, 1869, to Miss Susan Daller, who was born in Norway September 19, 1843. They have three children: Elon J. F., William A. and Austin W.,—the last two being twins. Mr. Duckworth is a Congregationalist and his wife a Lutheran.

Reuben C. Munger, farmer Chebanse, deserves mention in our pages. He was born in Delaware county, New York, September 15, 1836. He came with his parents to this state, and settled in the town of Roscoe, in 1842. His father (the Rev. Obadiah W. Munger) was a Methodist minister, and brought his sons up to farming, he generally being the possessor of one. In 1843 they moved to Boone county, remaining one year; then to Kendall county, and leaving there in 1848, moved to a farm of 200 acres that his father purchased further south, living there till 1869. Mr. Munger moved to this township in January, 1869, and has rented and resided on the same place for fifteen years. He has a quarter section of his own, but that not being large enough to suit his ideas of farming, he lets the same, and rents the extensive and beautiful place where he now resides. He was married December 30, 1858, to Miss Lydia A. Jacobs, who was born March 22, 1837. They have been blessed with two children: William W., born November 25, 1859, and Catharine A., March 22, 1862. He was supervisor for the first two years of the organization of the township, and is now treasurer of the board of road commissioners, and is also school trustee. He was the first justice of the peace for one year. He has been a member



in good standing of the Masonic fraternity for sixteen years, and a strict member of the Methodist church for twenty-seven years, and is a Good Templar, as are also his family.

B. W. Gilborne, farmer, Cabery, Ford county, was born in Ireland, on November 1, 1825. Living there till fourteen years of age, he came to America all alone, in 1840. He resided in Montgomery county, New York, some ten years, working on a farm and teaching school. In 1850 he went to Schoharie county, New York, living there till 1864, when he enlisted in Co. F, 13th N. Y. heavy artillery, the next year being transferred to Co. A, and after the fall of Richmond, was consolidated with the 7th heavy artillery. He was in the siege service, fighting at Petersburg and Richmond. He, with four others, had charge of the mail-boat Fawn for a short time, on the Dismal Swamp Canal, leading from Elizabeth river via the Great Bridge, Pungo Landing, and Corn Jack. He was on provost-guard and police duty at Norfolk and Portsmouth, and was finally discharged on August 24, 1865. He then returned home, and in 1867 he moved west, stopping at Rogers, Ford county, and two years thereafter, moved to the town of Chebanse, now Milk's Grove township. He was the first town clerk, serving two terms; has been assessor for five years, justice of the peace for three years, commissioner of highways for two years, and supervisor one year, all of which he still continues to hold. He is also farmer and school-teacher. In fact he has been father and grandfather of the township for the past five years, he having attended to about all the business that has been transacted. He was married on July 25, 1852, to Miss Lodoizker Minard, who was born on January 30, 1830. They have four children: Mary E., now wife of Levi C. Latham; William H., Alice and John; James D. and Charles, deceased. He has 40 acres which he farms during the summer, and teaches school in the winter, which occupation he has followed for the past thirty years.

William Hipkie, farmer, Herscher, Kankakee county, was born in Berghenhusen, Germany, on March 4, 1841. He remained in the old country till the age of fourteen, then coming to America he went direct to Wisconsin, and lived there four years; then to Illinois in 1861, residing in Lisbon, Kendall county, some nine years; then to this township, buying his present farm of 160 acres, which is beautifully located on rising ground, in the heart of an extensive prairie country, and commanding a fine view of the surrounding scenery. He was married November 12, 1871, to Miss Mary J. Duckworth, who was born in Lisbon, Kendall county, February 5, 1845. Her father, the venerable George Duckworth, is still living at the ad-

vanced age of eighty-three years, and residing a portion of the time with her. Mr. Hipkie has held the office of trustee and school director for three years each. He has accumulated his worldly possessions by hard work and perseverance. He has one child, George F., born on March 2, 1873.

J. C. Dunkelberger, farmer, Herscher, Kankakee county, was born in Perry county, Pennsylvania, September 10, 1825. He was raised in Pennsylvania, living there till forty-two years old. On February 20, 1867, he moved his family to Illinois, settling in Livingston county for eight years, and in 1875 came to this county, locating in Milk's Grove township, section 16, having 240 acres. It is all well hedged; has a fine young orchard, and is under good cultivation. He was married March 24, 1853, to Miss Sarah Bear, in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, and she was born November 22, 1832, in Perry county, Pennsylvania. They have eight children: William H., Elmira, Charles H., Edward L., Daniel M., James, John O. and Jeremiah C.; and Franklin, deceased. Mr. Dunkelberger has been school director for three years, and is a member of the Lutheran denomination.

F. B. White, farmer, Kempton, Ford county, was born in the state of New York, August 1, 1842. He was raised on a farm till 1862, when he enlisted August 13, in Co. K, 125th N. Y. Vols., Col. Willard commanding. His battle was at Harper's Ferry, where 11,000 soldiers were engaged, and all taken prisoners, being completely hemmed in. They were paroled on the day after, and some 9,000 sent to Chicago; were exchanged, and returned to the field. He participated in ten other battles: Gettysburg, Wilderness, Mine Run, Spottsylvania Court-house, Bristol Station, Cedar Mountain, Stony Creek, Manassas Gap and Swamp Wood. He received a severe wound at Spottsylvania Court-house by the explosion of a shell,—an ounce ball entering his right shoulder; also a bayonet lunge in his left leg. On April 1, 1865, he received his discharge and returned home. In 1876 he went to Morris, Grundy county, and in 1877 came to this township,—his present homestead falling into his possession. He has 611 acres, with good house and out-buildings. He was married, March 14, 1877, to Miss Elizabeth Stone, who was born September 20, 1843. She has five children bearing the name of her first husband, Mr. John Capen: Hattie M., Charles S., Mary E., Carrie A. and Herbert N.

## IROQUOIS TOWNSHIP.

Iroquois township is in the central portion of the county, and embraces the entire congressional township known as T. 27, R. 13 W. of the 2d principal meridian. The Iroquois river runs across its northeastern part for six or seven miles, and Spring creek passes across its western half from near its southwestern corner, in a northeasterly direction to its junction with the Iroquois, on section 15. So large a portion of the township was originally timber (probably one-third of its area) that all the requirements for early settlement were found here. The surface is gently rolling, very little of it being so flat as not to be capable of thorough drainage by the ordinary methods of open ditches or tiles. The eastern half of the township is decidedly sandy, and is easily worked, and capable of producing magnificent crops. Coal has recently been discovered near by the river, on or near section 14; but the general depression in the coal-mining business has prevented the development of what may in the near future be an important interest. The township is wholly within the artesian district; and many of the wells, which have an average depth of about 100 feet, flow fine streams, and one on the premises of Mrs. Harroun runs a stream strong enough to drive an overshot waterwheel, for churning. Corn has always been the staple crop, but considerable flax is raised, the absence of any market for the straw being the only serious drawback. Dairying is increasing in importance, and the growing of winter wheat has received a strong impetus, owing to the fine crops of the two years last past. Few of the farmers have engaged much in cattle-feeding, or in raising fancy stock or sheep. On nearly every farm is seen a small patch of sorghum growing, and several small mills find steady employment during the fall in working up the product. The fine flowing wells make dairying an object with many of the farmers, and Holstein cattle are becoming favorites with those who desire a cross which will be superior for milk. The water from these flowing wells is run through the milk-house and cools the milk quickly, keeping it at the uniform temperature at which the cream rises most perfectly, and in the winter prevents freezing, except on some rare occasions of very severe weather.

The hedges are generally in good condition, the buildings good and neat. Few of the farms have been overrun by noxious weeds, and the highways present a condition of perfect grading, which few townships in this prairie country can surpass. Opinions vary considerably as to the real value to the town of the road-grader, which is owned by the town; but the better opinion is, that at least three times as much earth



is moved by the machine as would be done by the same number of teams with scrapers, though it often fails to deposit the earth where it is most needed, and the road-bed is left too narrow.

The earliest inhabitants migrated from Ohio and Indiana largely. Latterly many came from the counties north and west of here, and the French settlement in the northern part of the county has spread into this township. Very little of the land is held by non-residents, and small farms are the rule.

#### EARLY SETTLEMENTS AND INCIDENTS.

The date of the first settlements (which were upon Spring creek) was in April, 1835. In the opinion of William Flesher, to whom the writer is under many obligations, and who seems to be a man well calculated to retain an excellent remembrance of facts, the first entries of land were made in June, 1835, by John Flesher and Levi Thompson. They entered a half-section each in sections 28 and 29, under the impression that they were getting the timber land, which, in fact, was in sections 20 and 21, upon which they already had claims. They had selected the right numbers and would have entered the land in the latter sections, but parties at the land office deceived them by telling them that the timber was in the other sections. They afterward entered a portion of the timber land. Mr. Thompson, who lives at Gilman, thinks his father settled here on section 20, where Mr. Calkin lives, in 1832. He has always understood that his parents were driven away from here by the Indians in 1832 or 1833. A very careful sifting of all the evidence at his disposal satisfies the writer that the date fixed by Mr. Thompson is too early by at least two or three years. The Thompson family had lived near Milford before coming here, and there participated in the fright and flight which came from a scare in regard to approaching hostile Indians. The Indians did not come but the pioneers did run. At the time this settlement was made the Indians had removed, but there were a few lingering around their village, which was near the mouth of Spring creek, near the farm so long owned and occupied by H. A. Butzow, Esq., county clerk. These Indians came occasionally to the white man's house for something to eat, but never molested any one. Mr. John Wilson, who did not come to this township to live until three years later, relates that in his absence from his cabin on one of his frequent business trips some Indians came to his cabin to get salt to season their venison. Wilson, coming home in the night, had not been noticed by these wanderers, and they returned to get salt late at night, and were so frightened (the fright was largely mutual) at finding the cabin occu-

pied, that they ran "like white-heads." They were afterward made to understand that they were welcome to his house, and during the entire winter supplied him with venison and fish for his table. These are believed to be the only Indian incidents here after the settlement by whites in this township. The next one who came here was Jedediah Darby, who settled just at the west line of the township, near the residence of Mr. Kirby. He and his wife both died and were buried there. This must have been in 1835. Owen Darby came the same spring and took the claim where Flesher's burying-ground is, and sold it to John Flesher. Lemuel Flesher, a cousin of John's, took a claim on section 21, which he afterward sold to John, and went to section 30, where Mrs. Harroun now resides, and built a cabin. He afterward owned the place where Kirby lives, and put out the orchard from which Mrs. Kirby now supplies the Gilman market with apples. After selling that he took up and improved the place opposite the Washington school-house, which he sold to Brelsford, and took the place where Davis lives, which he sold to Keene and went farther up stream.

John Flesher, on the other hand, continued to reside on the place he made, and his children still live on the same place, and entertain their friends under the same hospitable roof which he erected in 1837. It was a magnificent house for the times. It was 22×28, with rived clap-board roof. The floor was sawed at Webster's mill, near Milford. The upper-floor joists are 22 feet long, and were all (eleven of them) split out of one log, and hewed so accurately that it is almost impossible to detect any irregularity in them. Mr. Flesher came in one of those old-fashioned Pennsylvania wagons, now entirely gone out of date, and brought some cattle with him. There were many evidences of recent Indian occupation here when he came. The poles which had answered them for tents were still standing, and down at their camp were graves of a peculiar nature,—that is, they were peculiarly marked. There were slabs at the head and foot, and they seemed roofed over with pickets. These remained undisturbed until the fire burned up the wood. They were never desecrated by the relic fiend. There was no mill at this time nearer than Denmark, near Danville, but there was a corn-cracker at Milford. It was a several days' job to go to mill, for besides the distance, it often occurred that one had to wait his turn for several days. Levi Thompson, who was the first comer, made his home on section 20, where Mr. Calkin now resides. He had come from Indiana in 1832. Mr. Thompson died here about 1846. They had nine sons, all of whom grew up to manhood but one, four of them going into the army and giving their aid, and two their lives, to their country. James died at Vicksburg. He was a most estimable

young man, and had already served nearly three years in the 20th reg. William served four years, and is now in Alabama. Levi served in the 113th, and now resides with his mother in Gilman. Newton, who also saw service in the army, died in Michigan. About 1850 Mrs. Thompson married Mr. Harwood, and lived for awhile on the farm Mrs. Harroun now lives on. She now, at the age of seventy-five, resides at Gilman, where some of her children live with her, still strong and hearty after having borne the hardships of pioneer life.

John Johnson came in 1836, and made his cabin on the place where Mr. Peters lives. He only remained two years, and then moved farther up stream. He devoted his time principally to bee-hunting. He was a Scotchman. He died there. Wm. Huckins came from Springfield, Ohio, in the spring of 1837, and bought land of Flesher on section 21, just east of where the latter resided. He built a house which still stands, near where the Gravelots reside. They had a large family of children. The farm was purchased by the Gravelot brothers when they came here from France, in 1854. There were six brothers and a sister in this family. The change, coming from the champagne country of France to the howling wilderness, for howling it was then, is strongly impressed on their minds, but they never got sick of the country. A nephew who came with them could not stand it, and returned to carry the news to France. Julius, John and Hipered live here still. All are unmarried. The latter served in the 76th reg. during the war. The other brothers went to Kansas. The sister died here. Her husband, Mr. Chappaux, started in 1859 to go to Oregon, but was never heard from after he reached Utah. It is supposed he suffered death at Mountain Meadows. An only daughter lives here with her uncles.

A queer old character by the name of William McCutcheon, whose name is still known here only as having been given to the slough which winds down through to the creek, came here from Milford in 1837, and took up a claim on S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of section 30, where A. D. Harroun lives. He was an uneasy mortal, never satisfied with his lot or his prospects. Whenever it rained he would complain of being drowned out, and if it did not rain he thought everything was going to burn up. He had no claims to beauty. It is said that the first time Hi. Vennum met him in the road he gave him his hat, remarking as he did so that he believed he (McCutcheon) was entitled to it by the law of the road. It was the first time Hiram had ever met a homelier man than himself. He had a large family of girls, and the boys thought, as he lived out on the prairie all alone, and had the range of ten counties, that he owned all the land he could see. In 1844 it rained all



the time, and the slough which bears his honored name was "booming" from early spring till fall, much as some of the later residents remember that it did in 1869. The old man got disgusted, and traded his land to J. F. Wright for a lot of dry goods, and dressed his girls all out gorgeously and started for Missouri in a covered wagon.

The first school was taught by Jacob O'Feather, who was from Indiana, and who settled on section 25 of Douglas township, in 1836, in a house which stood on section 30, probably about 1838. The school was maintained by subscription, and pupils came from four miles away. They used "Elementary Spelling Book," "English Reader," and whatever book the pupil chanced to have. Mr. Prentiss taught a term in a cabin on the Cavena place, and Miss Mary Peck taught a term in a cabin which stood near where the burying-ground now is. The first district school-house was built near where the bridge crosses the creek, on section 19, about 1845. David Gardner, a mason by trade, afterward a merchant at Middleport, now a capitalist at Chicago, taught the school. Elijah Barton, the Harwoods, the Lawheads, the Fletcher children and the Huckins children, were among those who attended. William Scott, Dan Wright and Alfred Fletcher, also taught school here early.

The first post-office in town was kept by Levi Thompson, at his house on Spring creek. It was established in 1838, and was called Pink-a-Mink, the Indian name of the river. Mr. Wentworth, in his address at the old settlers' reunion, speaks of having the Plato post-office established in 1838. It is supposed that he had confounded the names, and that it is this office which he referred to, as it is certain that the Plato office was not established until two years after that date. This office lasted but a few years.

Dr. Fowler, of Bunkum, was the first to practice medicine here, and Dr. Harwood, of Middleport, was the next. Dr. J. H. Kester was the first to locate in the town. He improved the place where Mr. Mitchell lives, and remained here until 1864, when he sold and went to the western part of the state. Dr. Cunningham was engaged in practice here before the all-pervading quinine was in vogue. He understood human nature better than he did medicine, and he was sharp enough to practice accordingly. J. R. Smith located a land warrant on one quarter of section 31, and carried on a blacksmith shop there. Frederick Harwood came from Indiana in 1843, and took up land where Mrs. Harroun now lives, on section 30. He died in 1878 at the age of sixty-nine. He was a worthy and exemplary man, and a good neighbor. Mrs. Harwood is still living. They had five boys and two girls, most of whom reside in the county.

Maurice Kirby, an Irishman, who came to America in 1829, and

worked on public works in various places, came over from Indiana about 1840, to spy out the land and see if he could not get a piece of land which he could own. He seems to have been, in his younger days at least, much given to placing great confidence in what those, whom he thought his friends, told him. When looking for land, some one told him that the finest land in this whole country was along White Woman's creek (Langham creek), and that the delay of a single day might deprive him of it, for Cassady (then famous as a land speculator at Danville) was going to enter the whole batch of it right off. All that was necessary in those days to make land "go off like hot cakes," was to circulate a report that Cassady or Dr. Fithian was after it. Away went Maurice to Danville on the wings of the wind, or as near as he could to that style, and entered the first quarter he could get hold of. After this was secured, and Maurice was happy over his possessions, the registrar entered into a friendly conversation with him: "Maurice," said he, "you've made a poor selection; the land, it is true, is of very superior quality; but the wolves, man,—the wolves are that bad that no man, most especially an Irishman, can stand it for a single night. They'd tear the tender members of your family,—the childer', man; and it's more than an even chance if they would not even devour the old ones, to say nothing of the snakes that are in it." Maurice was seeking a country, it is true, but it was not exactly that kind of a neighborhood that he wanted. He determined to abandon his purchase, and started back to Indiana, at a good lope, wishing at every step that Cassady had the land. In 1844 he came to where he now resides, and bought of Lemuel Flesher. The wolves and snakes could hardly have been worse on "White Woman's creek" than they were here at first. He had to keep his door bolted after dark to keep the children in and the wolves out.

Alfred Fletcher came here with his father in 1849 and bought a farm in section 30. He taught school for a while, for \$20 per month and board. He "boarded round," as the term was, and was always sure to make the longest stay where the girls were plentiest and prettiest. He was the first clerk of the township and has frequently performed the duties of the various offices.

L. D. Northrup laid out the town of Point Pleasant in 1836, on the east side of Spring creek, about eighty rods from the Iroquois river. It was a great time for laying out towns, and there were not many men who had a river front, who did not have at least a town plat in anticipation. This place was also a candidate for the county-seat. James Smith, who was a noted surveyor of that day on the upper Spring creek, did the surveying. There was an Indian burying-

ground here, and at the time the village was laid out the graves were marked by puncheons on them, laid in the shape of a roof.

The next settlement which was made, in point of time, and the first in point of prospective importance, was that at Plato, by what was known as the Plato company. This company was composed of a number of business men, who purchased the land now owned and occupied by John Wilson, in 1835 or 1836, and laid out a town with all the customary expectations and paraphernalia of that day. The plat which was taken east to make the lots sell was beautifully done. The broad, deep-blue river, with snorting steamboats trying to find room to tie up at its wharves, would remind one of the Danube instead of the Iroquois. The plat was on the south and west of the river. It was the expectation of the proprietors to secure the location of the county-seat here, and was freely advertised in New York and Boston as "one of the handsomest locations for a city in the world," as indeed it was. A sale of lots was made, and some of the lots sold for more than those did in Chicago. It was the "head of navigation" on the Iroquois river, and the prospective capital of a rich and fertile country. The notes which were given for the lots were by their terms to become due when the steam-mill in contemplation was completed. The failure to secure the county-seat made it undesirable to go on with work on the mill, and it was never completed.

The story of this county-seat strife is interesting. The Plato company believed that they had the best chance, and that the inducements they offered would be sufficient to secure it, but a little accident interfered to spoil their plans. Lieut.-Gov. John Moore, of McLean county, Gen. Whitesides, and Capt. Covell, of Bloomington, were the commissioners to select a county-seat. They were to meet here on the ground in May, 1837. The two former came, but Covell's sickness prevented his attendance. The members of the company were on hand and made their proposition. Moore and Whitesides thought favorably of it, and had Covell been present would have accepted the offer made,—that of donating fifty lots in consideration of the location of the county-seat; but they adjourned the matter for a few weeks. At their second meeting all commissioners were present, but the proprietors were absent. The financial storm which was sweeping over the country was seriously threatening every branch of trade. These men were engaged in business, and though they were notified to be present, each had so much on his hands to take care of his own business affairs that he would not give his time to it. Mr. Flesher nearly killed two horses riding to get them to attend the meeting of the commission. Their offer was made, and the Middleport party knew



what it was, and they made an offer of 100 lots. This the commissioners thought very liberal, and Gov. Moore said for the commission that the Plato company would have to do better. The members of the company failing to put in an appearance, the commission, after remaining three days, went on and closed with the offer of the Middleport citizens, and Plato "went back." About 1840 a post-office was established and John Wilson appointed postmaster,—a position he still holds. The land in this township had been opened for sale, but was afterward withdrawn from market to permit the selection of "state lands." These lands were donated by the general government to the state, under the act of September, 1841, donating the proceeds of the sale of lands, and a large amount of lands to the several states, and the law permitted a selection to be made of the choicest lands. Selections were made all the way from the Kankakee river to Middleport, except around Plato. John Wilson had one eye on this land and the other on the surveyors, and prevailed on them not to touch what he wanted. The price was fixed on these "state lands," ranging from \$3 to \$8 per acre, the price to decrease each year fifty cents per acre on all the lands except those valued at \$3, until they should reach \$3 and \$4. The last were sold in 1858.

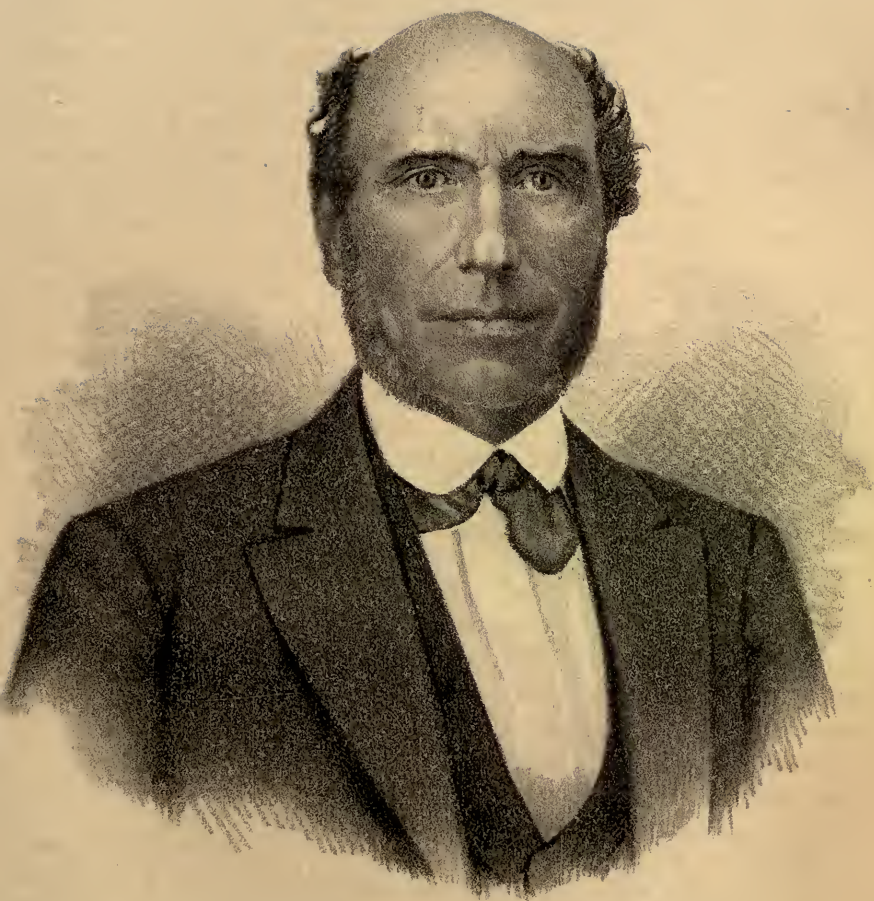
When Mr. John Wilson came here, about 1836 or 1837, there were six settlements in the county: Milford, Bunkum, Middleport, Upper Spring Creek, around about Onarga and Del Rey, Lower Spring Creek and Ash Grove. Mills and markets were from forty to 100 miles away. The settlers were honest, frugal and hospitable; none were rich, but no one left a cabin hungry. Any one within twenty miles was a neighbor. The advent into this new country of a man of the experience and education of Mr. Wilson was a great aid to the development of the country and society. He was well and thoroughly versed in all land matters, and was a teacher of much more than ordinary ability. The lack of schools was keenly felt by many of the pioneers, and Mr. Wilson's reputation preceded him to the new country. His acquirements were discussed, and his feats recounted. He was soon called on by citizens who lived along the upper Spring creek to teach their school. Mr. Jonas Smith, who represented the citizens then, said they would give him \$30 per month and board for himself and horse. They built a house capable of seating sixty scholars, and so great was the rush of those coming in from all over the county, that the seats were full all winter. The parties who got up the school and guaranteed his pay made a good speculation out of it, for there were so many scholars that the tuition of their own children was free.

The post-office at Plato was established in 1840, and Mr. Wilson,

who was then appointed postmaster, has continued in that office ever since, through all the changes of administration. He is the oldest postmaster in the country west of the Allegheny mountains, there being a few in the eastern states who have seen longer service. The office was served at first by the stage route from Joliet to Danville. The offices south of this were Middleport, Milford, North Fork and Denmark. Two-horse coaches made the trip once a week. After the railroad was built the office was served from Kankakee for awhile, now from Clifton twice a week. One of the first schools taught here was by Mrs. David Pierce before her marriage in 1845. It was in the neat little cabin standing near by the old house, having an old-fashioned stick-and-mud chimney, a brick hearth and one small window of four lights of glass. The door was swung on wooden hinges, and a stout leather latch-string invited those hungry for education to walk in. Split logs were used for benches, and pins driven into the wall of the house served for support for the desks, ranged around on three sides of the room. They paid Miss Webster \$6 per month and board for teaching. Of course she "boarded around."

Joseph P. Starit came here and settled on the prairie twenty-five years ago, on section 22, that is, if hiding from wolves out on a prairie could be called settling. He has run a threshing machine for thirty-seven years. When he "learned the trade," in 1840, the machine known as the "ground hog" was in general use. It delivered the grain, chaff and straw all in a heap, and you could rake the straw off as when threshing with a flail, and the grain was scooped into a rail-pen, where it was considered safe until it could be "cleaned up." Next in order came the traveling machine, as it was called, which was moved around from shock to shock, leaving the straw on the field. The first "separators" that came around did not have the straw-carriers attached. It was thought to be a great invention. He has had considerable experience of "going through the mill" in his time. A refractory tumbling-rod once took off the tout ensemble of his wearing apparel, and gave him a taste of what "evolution" meant.

Henry A. Butzow came here soon after, and undertook to make a farm at the mouth of Spring creek. He was early called on to perform the duties of the various township offices, all of which he performed with such neatness, and in such an accurate, business-like manner, that he was selected as the candidate of the farmers' party for county clerk in 1873. He was elected by a large majority, and has justified the judgment of his friends in making a most acceptable and popular clerk. He was reelected in 1877. The earliest religious meetings in this portion of the township were held by Elder Boon, of



*Yours Truly*  
*John Wilson*



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the Christian denomination, in 1843 or 1844. The Methodists commenced holding meetings here about 1848, and have continued holding meetings at the school-houses nearly all the time since. A class was formed here, and at present the regular preaching is at the Sturtevant school-house.

#### EAST OF THE RIVER.

The east side of the river was settled from about 1839, by Samuel Lyman, Thomas Yates, with his father, Atis, Alexander Sword, James M. Moore, the last of whom settled here in 1850. When Mr. Yates first came here the principal articles of trade, and which, in the absence of gold and silver, were used as currency, were deer skins, honey and tallow. Mr. Yates never had less than a barrel or two of honey stowed away against a time of need, and down on Spring creek the story was current that "Yates boys had cakes of tallow to sit on instead of stools, made large enough so they could trundle them up to the table to sit on."

The Illinois Central railroad company took considerable of the land in this township. By the terms of the act of congress under which the road was built the company was entitled to each alternate section of land for six miles on either side of its line, and where any lands which would have belonged to them under such act had been previously taken, they were entitled to select from lands, within a range of fifteen miles, as much as had been thus taken.

#### THE FERRY WAR.

Dixon's Ferry which connects the shores of Iroquois with those of Martinton, at Plato, has been the cause of a long, a bitter and an engrossing contest in the field, on the water and in the courts, which finally resulted in the issuing of the following license: "To William Dixon, issued for five years from the date hereof, July 25, 1879. Rates of toll established by the board of supervisors: For double team, 15 cents; same, both ways on the same day, 20 cents; horse and rider, 10 cents; footman, 5 cents; cattle and horses, 3 cents; hogs and sheep, 2 cents. H. A. Butzow, clerk. Fee, \$6, paid." The ferry had been established twenty years before, but as at that time there was no one to run it, and no business to do, it was unused. The other ferry, half a mile down stream, was in use, but all those who lived east of the river in Iroquois and along the line of Martinton had to pass over the land of John Wilson to reach the ferry. This was considered trespass by Mr. Wilson, but as he had permitted it almost twenty years, it bid fair to become a road by limitation. To prevent this Mr. Wilson fenced up the road, and Stock, the rival ferryman, undertook to tear down

the fence. This brought on an encounter between Stock and the picket-guard which Wilson had thrown out, which did not exactly prove fatal, but led to a law-suit, Stock claiming that the road through Wilson's woods had been used twenty years, and that hence he had a right to reduce the fence which Wilson had erected across it to kindling wood. A three-days law-suit followed. The three towns of Iroquois, Martinton and Danforth were interested. Eighty witnesses were called, and Wilson carried the day. Then an appeal followed, of course, and the Stock party took a new twist on Wilson's reserved ferry rights by proceeding to prove that the road which led along the town line to his ferry from the east was never legally laid out, it having been laid a forty instead of a sixty-foot road, and twenty years had not yet made it legal. This took the Wilson party between wind and water. They had got their ferry rights maintained by the aid of the law, and had shut up the road which led away from his ferry, and now the Stock party, aided and abetted by the Martinton officials, had shut up the only road leading to it. At the same time a legal road was opened half a mile north of the old one, which run directly to Stock's ferry. Then business had to begin anew. A petition was circulated to lay out the town-line road again, but the commissioners of highways were very slow to act, and an appeal was taken to the supervisors. About this time straw was put under a bridge which was supposed to have been intended by the Stock party to ignite the bridge and render travel to Dixon's impossible. Both ferries are in full operation, not doing business enough, of course, to support one, but neither will be suppressed. It has been captured and recaptured almost as many times as Harper's Ferry since the time of old John Brown.

One of the most distressing, and from all its surroundings one of the most singular crimes ever known in the history of this county, was the murder of Mrs. Malousen by her husband, in May, 1872. Joseph Malousen was a worthy and respected man. Nobody would have deemed him capable of committing such a shocking crime, but that his mental organization was somewhat deficient seems certain from the result. He was a member of the Roman Catholic church, and married, against the rules of his church, a woman who had been previously married, but who had long been separated from her husband, but had not been legally divorced. His priest reproved him sharply for his marriage and told him that he could not recognize him, and the church could not while living in such an unauthorized state. This preyed on his mind so that he was almost beside himself, and when returning from Watseka on foot with his wife, whom he really loved, in the evening, he sat down and talked with her on the bank of the creek a while. He then pushed



her in and jumped in and held her down under the water till life was extinct. He then took off her skirt and left it in a field a short distance away, and put the hand-basket which she was carrying under a bridge some distance away, and secreted himself. Of course the murdered woman was soon found, and the neighbors commenced the search for him with a rope, and it is believed his life would have been of little value had he been found. A week later he gave himself up to the sheriff, saying that he could not bear the terrible feelings any longer. He confessed his crime and was sentenced to the penitentiary for fourteen years. His behavior there was such that he has already worked out.

The only railroad in the township is the Toledo, Peoria & Warsaw, which was built in 1858 and 1859, and runs along the southern boundary line. A company was formed and surveys were made in 1872 for building the La Fayette, La Salle & Clinton railroad. By its survey it was to cross the river at or near Plato, and run through the northeastern corner of this township. The building was about to be commenced, the bonds having been placed with Jay Cooke & Co., for sale, when the failure of that house, and the consequent panic in financial affairs, put a stop to this, as it did to all other railroad enterprises. There is some prospect that this road will be built.

W. F. Riggle was first clerk; A. B. Thompson, assessor; and William Flesher and Isaac Riggle, justices of the peace. The present officers are: S. N. Calkin, supervisor, now in his sixth term; J. B. Eno, clerk, now in his seventh year; A. Flesher, assessor; J. B. Eno, collector; Robert Goodman and C. H. Martin, justices of the peace. In 1863 a special vote taken for or against township organization, resulted 45 for, to 1 against. In 1867 there were 72 for, to 6 against. A vote was taken May 14, 1867, for or against annexing to Kankakee county all of town 29, ranges 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 west, and 10 and 11 east, which then belonged to Iroquois county. It resulted unanimously against annexation. The township has usually been democratic politically, and latterly very close when party lines have been drawn. The records of town meeting show a remarkable number of tie votes. Before township organization this was a part of Jefferson precinct, and voting was done at Mr. Jefferson's house.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

No person in Iroquois county has been more thoroughly and continuously alive to all the interests of the county, from almost its earliest settlement, than John Wilson, of Plato. He was born in county Down, Ireland, in 1813, and four years later came to Baltimore, Mary-

land, with his father, who had been for some years county officer, a position answering in part to the office of sheriff before its duties had been clipped by what is known as township organization, but having a certain jurisdiction in several counties. For twelve years, while Mr. Wilson carried on mercantile business in Baltimore, John was in school. On the removal to Ohio of the elder Wilson, John remained and taught school at Fredericksburg, meanwhile qualifying himself to teach civil engineering, draughting, penmanship, commercial education, etc. In June, 1835, he arrived at Danville, with as good a practical education as any man in the thriving settlement, and for two years served as clerk in the land office, under Judge McRoberts, teaching a commercial class each winter in the branches which he had prepared himself to teach. He also taught commercial classes in Chicago, La Fayette, and several in Urbana. It was while he was at Danville that he formed an intimate friendship for Mr. Lincoln, which, notwithstanding their opposite political views and party associations, continued till the death of the martyr president. When the Plato Company was formed,—a company which had a considerable landed interest here,—he came here to reside as the agent of the company. In 1830 he taught, not the first, but probably the second, school on Spring creek, and which was the forerunner of the Grand Prairie Seminary, now flourishing near where he taught. So much had the fame of the schoolmaster spread that the building which had been put up for the school, holding sixty pupils, would not accommodate the applicants. Soon after this he quitted the employ of the Plato Company, and assisted James Smith, county surveyor. He improved two farms on the Iroquois river, which he sold, and afterward became owner of the Plato Company's property, and has added to it until he has now 1,100 acres of land, of unsurpassed fertility and beauty. He was county surveyor for four years, and prepared and published one of the most complete and accurate county maps ever issued in a new county, and which is still considered authority. He was appointed the first postmaster at Plato, in 1840 or 1841, and has held the position uninterruptedly for thirty-nine years. He is believed to be the oldest postmaster in the country. He was appointed in 1846 one of the commissioners of the Kankakee and Iroquois river slack-water improvement. He perfected the survey of the rivers, and made estimates on the work, commencing at the upper end of the rivers. He was overruled by the other commissioners, who decided to commence at Wilmington. They put in one dam and lock there, which was washed away by the next spring freshet. He was appointed on the second commission in 1861, but the war then progressing prevented any work being accomplished.

He prepared maps of Vermilion, Champaign and Kankakee counties, and was engaged for some time making surveys for the Illinois Central railroad, and platting their lands. He married, in 1839, Samantha Butler, who died in 1843, leaving one child, now Mrs. Reynolds, who lives in Michigan. He was married in 1845, at Urbana, to Amy E. Carson, who is still living. He is the father of eight children, all living: John J. and Robert Bruce, who are married, live near by; Thomas F. at Ashkum; Isabella Dixon lives at the ferry; Joseph F., Alfred and Pauline at home. He carries on his large farm, which is well stocked, feeding cattle in large numbers. Politically, he has always been a democrat, and in religious belief is a spiritualist in sentiment.

Enoch H. Long, farmer, Watseka, was born in Hawkins county, east Tennessee, in 1826. He removed to Indiana in 1842, and to Ash Grove ten years later. His great-grandfather served Shelby, and received three balls at the battle of King's Mountain, which he carried in his hip until his death. His grandfather died in Tennessee during the late war. He was a cousin of John C. Calhoun, the famous leader of South Carolina political views. Mr. Long married, July 1, 1855, Almira Sturtevant, and has seven children: Sarah L., William C., James A., Thomas L., George, Laura J. and Lucy May. He has lived a number of years in Iroquois township, where he has a good farm, with excellent buildings. He has been for years a devoted friend of the church, and his influence has been in favor of good society and good government.

Maurice Kirby, farmer, Crescent City, came to America in 1829, when he was twenty years of age, having been born in Ireland in 1809. For a number of years after coming to this country he was employed on various public works throughout the country, having been engaged on the Wabash and Erie canal, and other works of a similar nature, in the states of New York, Virginia, Ohio and Indiana. In 1840 he bought the 200-acre farm on which he now resides in this township, it at that time being wild land, but did not move on it until 1850, previously marrying Miss Caroline Griffin, the same year, in Parke county, Indiana. Their family consists of four children, two boys and two girls: Mary Francis, born in 1850; Caroline, born in 1856; John, born in 1860; and James, born in 1865. During the early years of their residence here they had to endure numerous trials and hardships, but he is now enjoying the fruits of his industry.

Tobias Danner, farmer, Crescent City, was born in Ohio in 1814. His grandparents were from Germany, and his parents were born in Virginia. They came to Indiana in 1830. He came to this county in 1852, and lived three miles southeast of Watseka. In 1864 he came to



his present residence to live. In 1837 he married, and from that union six children were born: Robert is married and lives near Watseka; John B. is married and lives near his father; Samuel O. also lives near; Mrs. Charlotta Harwood lives in Crescent, and Catherine E. died at the age of twenty-four. He was married a second time, in 1871, to Rachel Tarbott, who has two daughters and one son. Mr. Danner has been a constant member of the Methodist church for thirty-seven years.

George Fidler, farmer, Plato, was born in Ross county, Ohio, in 1823. At the age of four years he came with his parents to Tippecanoe county, Indiana, and married Harriet Parker in 1848. A few years after they came to this county and settled near where he now lives, on section 4. He has a farm of 320 acres, and 20 acres of timber land. They are the parents of ten children, six of whom survive: David A. is married and lives near by, has five children; Rebecca Jane Miller, who lives a mile from her father, has two children; Mary P. Miller has one; William, Owen and Curtis live at home. Melissa died at three months; Susan Mildred at sixteen months; Albert when eight years of age, and Johnnie at the age of seven. Mr. Fidler has never held office of any kind except that for several years he has served his district as school director.

J. B. Eno, teacher, Crescent City, was born in Hartford county, Connecticut, November 26, 1825. Determining to devote his life to teaching, after attending the academy at his native place some years, he attended Suffield Literary Institute, then under the charge of S. Dryden Phelps, the "poet teacher." Graduating at the State Normal, at New Britain, he has, with very little intermission, continued to teach until this time, commencing in 1839. He taught nine years in Connecticut and three years in western New York. He was married, in 1855, to Miss Holcomb, and removed to Illinois with the Connecticut colony, which settled in the western part of this county in 1856, since which time he has resided in this county, teaching in Watseka, Chatsworth, and in nearly every town in this vicinity, holding the position of deputy superintendent of schools for some years. In 1863 he was the candidate of his party for superintendent. His wife died in 1864, leaving two daughters: Carrie and Cora. In 1866 he married Miss Alida Pardy, who has three children: Mary, Kittie and Jerrie. He is believed to be the oldest teacher in this part of the state, having devoted thirty-four years of his life to that work. Coming here at a time when education was in its infancy, he has done much to strengthen the educational interests of the county. Mr. Eno has long been a member of the Congregational church, and has been devoted to the interests of that church and society at Crescent City. Politically he has always

been a democrat, and has frequently been called on to perform the duties of township office. He is the present clerk, collector and treasurer of Iroquois township.

S. Newell Calkin, farmer, Crescent City, was born in Du Page township, Will county, his education being in the work on the farm and in the common schools. At the opening of the rebellion he enlisted in Barker's dragoons, which soon after saw service in the army of the Potomac, acting for some time as McClellan's body-guard. In December, 1863, the regiment to which it became attached reënlisted as veterans and was sent to the department of the Gulf. They participated in the disastrous Red River campaign and then marched back again. It was probably one of the companies of this regiment about which the story is told with a good show of truth, that returning in such a dilapidated condition so far as their nether garments were concerned, a stylish officer, on being invited to partake of a dinner by some ladies who desired to show hospitality, was obliged to decline on account of the unpresentable appearance he would make should he dismount. His father removed to this township about this time. Mr. Calkin, at the expiration of his term of service, married Miss Adelaide George, March, 1865, and came here to reside where he now lives, on section 17. He has six children: Samuel, Gertie, Henry, Jacob, Mary and Hannah. For six years past he has been the supervisor of Iroquois township and has given evidence of very good qualifications for the important position. In the fall of 1879 he received the unanimous nomination of the independent greenback party for the office of county treasurer.

Samuel Loveridge, farmer, Watseka, was born in England in 1835. Receiving a good education, and having a decided aptitude for clerical work, he applied for a clerkship in the commissary department of Her Majesty's service during the Crimean war, and received the appointment, serving twenty-one months, and until the close of hostilities, most of the time at Scutari, in Asiatic Turkey. On returning to England he sailed for America, and traveled extensively to find such a place as he wanted. He traveled all over the southern Atlantic states looking for a place to engage in the business of producing pitch. During a portion of the war he was engaged as clerk in the quartermaster's department at Louisville, Kentucky. In 1864 he married Miss Eliza Scrymgeour, of Jeffersonville, Indiana. They have two children: Maggie and Jessie. He came to this township to live in 1865, and resides on section 35. He has served as assessor of the township, and for several years past has been an elder of the Presbyterian church at Watseka.

S. G. Staples, grain dealer, Crescent City, was born in Canton, St. Lawrence county, New York, in 1824. His parents were Quakers from Rutland county, Vermont, where many of the family still reside. The originators of the family in America came from the north of Ireland to Massachusetts, one going from thence to Vermont. Levi Staples moved early to the Wyoming valley, where he was killed at the time of the massacre, but his wife escaping, took her young child and rode on a mule all the way back to Connecticut. Mr. Staples, at the age of thirteen, being thrown on his own resources, went to Lewis county and worked on a farm. At nineteen he went to Taberg to learn the trade of turner and cabinet-maker. He attended school awhile at Delta, and afterward went to Whitestown, Oneida county, where the then famous Beriah Green was preaching "abolition sentiments" of a decidedly radical nature. Few who listened to him failed to drink in the effects of his cogent reasoning, or to be moved by his terrible invective. Young Staples was no exception. He continued in school, teaching a portion of each year to acquire the means to meet his expenses. He then followed his trade for a few years, and was carrying on a shop on the farm of Jesse Williams, the originator of the cheese-factory system, at the time he built the first factory. The machinery for the mammoth cheese, which was exhibited all over the country, was made in his shop. He was married to Miss Barber, of Lee, Oneida county, New York, and removed to Oneida, Knox county, Illinois, in 1856, where for seven years he carried on an extensive and prosperous grain and broom-corn trade. He returned to Whitestown to engage in the lumber trade in 1864, and then came to Crescent city in 1869, and built the elevator here, continuing in the general grain trade until recently, and is now engaged in the flax-seed trade. Of his three children, Wilbur A. is married and lives in Middleport; Nettie E. and Emma B. are at home with their parents. Mr. Staples' political views were early in life molded into radical anti-slavery shape. He has for some years been a justice of the peace.

Alexander Swords, farmer, Watseka, was born in Perthshire, Scotland, in 1815. After receiving a good classic and scientific education he devoted his life to engineering. He served as coalgreave of the Town Hill Colliery for seven years. On leaving he was given a public dinner, and the silver snuff-box presented him on that occasion bears the date of 1842. He was then employed by Mr. A. Allison, of Edinburgh, to prospect for minerals, with a view to erecting large iron works. The six blast-furnaces erected by the Ockley Iron Works, in the county Fife, were the result of the investigations he then made. After the



erection of the works he engaged in railroading, which was just then coming into importance in that country, in Ayrshire and Lanarkshire, and some of the magnificent works of railroad engineering and building on the Edinburgh & Northern railroad still attest his skill. He served very efficiently as county officer in Clackmannanshire for eighteen months. He then concluded to come to America, and on August 5, 1855, landed in New York, and before the end of the month had located his land, five miles southeast of Chebanse. In 1869 he came to live on section 3 of Iroquois township, where he still resides. He was educated a Presbyterian, and holds strongly to that faith. In 1876 he received a sunstroke, from which he has not entirely recovered.

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### CRESCENT TOWNSHIP.

Crescent township occupies a central position in the county, and embraces the entire congressional township, town 26, range 13 west of the second principal meridian. It was originally entirely prairie land, except something less than two acres near the center of its eastern boundary, and from this reason had no early settlers upon it. The surface of the soil is finely rolling and has a gentle declivity toward the north, where its streams find their way into Spring creek and the river. It has comparatively few wide stretches of flat land, and all are capable of drainage. In the eastern half of the town the soil is sandy, and some knolls rise high enough to give a slightly view. A considerable portion of the land was purchased, or is now held, by non-residents. Some 2,000 acres are owned by the brothers Ainsworth,—Thomas living at Chandlerville, and Richard at Mason city, and other parties hold considerable quantities. The farmers are principally engaged in raising corn, though flax and other small grains are raised in considerable quantities. Few have engaged in cattle-raising and feeding to a great extent. Indeed such of the farms as are held by actual residents on them, are generally too small for cattle-farms, and most of them, especially through the central portion of the town, are yet too new to have good and sufficient fences or hedges. A good work is being done in grading and ditching the roads. For this purpose a grader is owned by the town and is used in working out the road taxes. The town is wholly within the artesian region, and flowing wells are everywhere to be found, the depth of which, though varying some, is less than it is in the township north, and more than in those south of it. The earliest settlements were made near the northeast, northwest and southeast

corners of the town, these points being nearest the timber of adjoining townships.

#### EARLIEST SETTLERS.

So far as any records can be obtained from the memory of those now here, John Johnson appears to have been the first who made a home here. He came to live on the southwest quarter of section 1, about 1846. He lived there until his death, about 1855. His widow and two daughters live in Watseka; another daughter, Mrs. Lewis Wilson, lives on section 36 of this township; another daughter lives in this town, and a son in Vermilion county. In 1848 Joseph Myers bought, where he now resides, the east half of the northwest quarter of section 1, of Thomas A. Norvell, of Gilman, where he has resided thirty years. Things were pretty wild here at that day. Deer were plenty. John Flesher was returning from Middleport one day, and came across two bucks who had got their horns so interlocked that they could not be separated. He drove them home in that condition, and with sundry regrets that he had taken such a cowardly advantage of the noble brutes, on account of their necessities, killed them. Mr. Sleeth came to reside on section 2, about 1849, where Mr. Arris Boughton now lives. Moses Tullis came here to live on the east part of section 2, about 1850, and his brother on section 1. Moses died here in 1874, and his widow still owns her portion of the land, and lives with a daughter near Milford. George W. Lovett, now of Watseka, came here and made a farm on the northwest corner of section 11, about 1859. Nathan Harrison, Edward Hitchcock, the Hutchinson family, Jacob, Isaiah, Daniel and John, were all early settlers in the township. The first settler in the northwestern part of the township was Ben. Wright, on section 7, in 1849. He had a habit of stuttering, by which he is best remembered. He is also remembered by William Wilson by another habit, which in this particular case was a bad one. His memory was treacherous, and he forgot to tell Wilson that there was a mortgage on the farm when he sold it. Mortgages were not as common then as a few years later, and the honest farmer in buying did not think it necessary to demand an abstract of title. It was probably the first case on record of mortgaging a farm in Crescent township, for at that day insurance companies were investing their money in Missouri, Tennessee, Georgia, and other southern state bonds, in preference to taking such security as an Illinois farmer could give. After selling his farm, Mr. Wright went west.

Robert Clark entered the two western eighties of section 19, as early as 1852, and James Lewis, who lived at the timber northwest of

here, entered the next eighty east of that in 1854. It had on it the first house put up in this part of the township. The house built by James Crow, on section 20, in 1858, was the next.

The house on the northwest quarter of section 8, known as the Hunter House, was built in 1859 by Thomas Davie. He lived there one year, and went to Onarga. Benjamin Hunter bought it in 1861, and came here to live in 1866. He was a blacksmith; and as he lived on the highway of travel between Onarga and Watseka, he established a shop there, and for a few years did a very considerable business. In the general settlement of the country he found himself not only off the thoroughfare of travel, but even cut off from a road entirely. There were two houses on section 15 built soon after this one was built by Davie. David Schoolcraft lived in one of them, and the other is occupied by Mrs. Spring. Hiram Dunn took up a part of section 6 in 1854. He erected buildings and got a post-office established, and named it Crescent, and expected to secure a station there. But the ways of railroad officials are past finding out. John F. Wright put up a store just west of Dunn's house, which was occupied for a store but a short time.

The first who settled in the southeast corner of the township was Mr. Hoover. He entered the land where Mr. Hurd now lives, on section 25, and built on it in the summer of 1853. Henry Cobb, and Jedediah, his brother, entered section 27,—the former building on it in the spring of 1854, and the latter in the fall. William Cunningham and his sons-in-law, Harvey Roll and Russell Search, came in 1855. Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Search entered land on section 33, and Mr. Roll on 23. They had trouble in securing the entry of the land they had selected. A portion of the land belonged to the Illinois Central railroad, and a considerable portion was wet, so that really there was not much space for choice. After having looked up the land they wanted they went to Danville and "put in their numbers," when they were informed that applications were on file for those very pieces, and they could not now attend to the matter. The plain truth of the matter was, that a half-score of land-sharks had filed applications for all the land in this vicinity, and the officers were aiding them by permitting the applications to lie dormant until some one came along who was willing to buy them off. Mr. Search was a young man of little experience in such matters, and still he had good, plain sense enough to see that "something was rotten in Danville," and went around town inquiring of every body how he could secure the entry of his land, but did not get any light, and went back to Indiana. Unsatisfied with his former trial he returned to Danville



to renew the attempt. This time some one told him that if he would go up in a certain office he would find a certain man there who would accommodate him. He found his man and stated his case, and was told that if he would give him \$15 per tract he would undertake to secure the land for him. This he felt to be an outrage; but the land he must have, and closed the bargain with the "shark" and entered the southeast and northwest quarters of section 33. Mr. Cunningham did not fare so well; he was obliged to pay \$60 to secure his entry. There was a gang of men around Danville who grew rich on what they extorted from those who went there to do business. This was called doing a "land-office business," and became a by-word. Settlers came in slowly after this. The financial panic of 1857 retarded the development of the new country, and crippled those recently coming here. There were no roads, and those living here were warned out to work the roads over at Watseka. At those times when the water was high, it was impossible to travel.

About 1865 the Germans began to come in here, and they very soon made a change in the condition of things. Always industrious, they soon changed the wild lands into waving fields, and the wet lands into fruitful meadows. They built their church, store and shops at Woodworth, a mile south of here, and are bringing the land, which so long lay idle, into the high cultivation, for which they are noted everywhere.

The general reader who has not lived in this portion of the town, and has had no occasion to cross it before bridges were thrown across, may need to be told that "Shave Tail" is the wide slough extending from just north of Woodworth, in a northwesterly direction toward Spring creek, and becomes Jefferson's Branch after it becomes a stream of dignity enough to be called by that name. Its name, though partially hidden in unauthenticated rumor, has the following history: The upper end is a broad lake during the wet season, and afforded good trapping grounds for those in quest of musk-rats. A solitary bachelor hunter, who in an early day had his traps there, whiled away a part of his tedious hours in courting a fair damsel who resided at Jefferson's Point. The boys of that neighborhood, who are acknowledged to have been a little uncivil in their treatment of strangers, seemed to have entertained the opinion that there were no more girls at the point than would go 'round. McCutcheon had recently gone off to Missouri with his wagon-load of girls, nicely dressed up in their store clothes, which he got in exchange for his farm, and there was fear that marriageable

girls were about to become something of an object in that neck of the woods. Not with the intention of being cruel, but simply to notify the trapper that his visits were no longer considered advisable, some of the boys one night shaved off the tail of his horse, and then, when he started back to his traps in the morning with a blanket thrown over the rear of his horse, the boys hooted at him derisively. It is perhaps unnecessary to add that he did not come courting to Jefferson's Point any more.

During high water it was practically impossible to cross Shave Tail, and many a ducking resulted from attempts to ford it. In 1869 the terrible rains put half of this country under water so much of the time that but very little was raised. It was a discouraging time for men who had payments to make on their land, and had nothing to depend on but their own hands. There was no school, and so much of the land in this district belonged to the Central railroad that but little of it was accessible, and taxes were higher than they have ever been since. The expense of building the school-house fell on two or three men.

The fires were the greatest danger. All was open prairie. One day when Mr. Deitz was returning from Crescent the first year he was here, he saw his place entirely enveloped in the smoke of a great fire. He had done but little plowing on the west side of his house, and everything indicated that the fire would sweep over all that he had, in which case his family could hardly escape alive. Putting his horse to the very best speed it had, he got home too late to be of any assistance, but found that his wife, by the timely assistance of a lad named Roderick Stocking, had kept back the fire from reaching the buildings at the expense of badly blistered hands and scorched clothing. It was, indeed, a narrow escape, but such were the early dangers of those who changed this prairie into fruitful farms.

The United Brethren have a church organization at Providence school-house, belonging to the Ash Grove circuit. A class was formed by Rev. Martin Connor in 1874, at Prairie Center school-house. Rev. Elias Bruner, Rev. Jehu Garrison, Rev. Harrison Jones and Rev. Mr. Meredith have since preached there. The class now numbers about twenty. Frank Mitchell, J. J. Edwards, Timothy Hoag and D. Underwood have acted as class-leaders at different times in its history.

Crescent remained a part of Belmont township until April, 1869, when it was erected into a separate one, and named Grenard, from Mr. E. Grenard, who was the first supervisor. Two years later the

name was changed to Crescent, because the name of the station was Crescent City. At the first election E. Grenard was chosen supervisor; David John, clerk; H. C. Boughton, assessor; E. Hitchcock, collector, and C. M. Potts and A. J. Harwood, justices of the peace. At that date the number of votes cast was 103. The voting population has just about doubled in the intervening ten years. The present township officers are: E. Hitchcock, supervisor; J. S. Harwood, clerk; E. C. Barber, assessor; O. M. Boughton, collector; and R. A. Lower and M. B. Gifford, justices of the peace. Previous to the separation of the township from Belmont, the united town had voted bonds to aid the construction of the Chicago, Danville & Vincennes railroad. After the separation (July 28, 1877), a special town meeting was held to vote for or against the payment of such portion of that indebtedness as should be equitably apportioned to Crescent. The vote stood for such payment, none; against such payment, 50,—showing a unanimity of public sentiment against assuming responsibility for the debt. The township, which was then known as Grenard, had, in 1870, 522 native-born inhabitants and 19 foreign-born, making a total of 541. The census to be taken this year will show a large increase to near 1,000.

#### CRESCENT CITY.

As the country became settled up between Watseka and Gilman, the authorities of the railroad saw that they must give the farmers better facilities for marketing their grain, and decided to put in a switch and establish a station on the farm of Mr. Hiram Dunn, in 1866, or about that time, on section 6. With this in prospect, Mr. Dunn got a post-office established, and Mr. Riggles was appointed postmaster. To this Mr. Dunn gave the name of Crescent, deriving the idea from the circular shape of the timber, which skirted Spring creek and the Iroquois river, in its curved stretch from section 6 in this to section 6 in Belmont township. While Mr. Dunn was awaiting the slow motions of the railroad officials, he learned,—what he never would have discovered in his home down in the wild woods of Clinton county, New York, where no railroad ever penetrated,—that station-starting on these prairies goes by favor, and while he had not thought of buying a station on his land, the officers were awaiting a proposition. The post-office at Crescent had been held by various parties there, as they could be induced to take it. Mr. Harwood, George Close, George Wright, and P. F. Dunn had it in turn for a short time each. In the fall of 1868, Mr. J. D. Young opened a store in a small building on section 31, opposite Mr. Dunn's



lands, and the post-office was shoved on him as his first honor when coming to the new place. During the year, Samuel Crumpton, of Chatsworth, became interested in the property where Crescent City now stands, and had no difficulty in inducing the railroad company to put down a switch and establish a station there. About the last of the year Mr. Young moved his store there into a building he bought of David Scott, where he continues to do business. When the post-office was removed here by Mr. Young, the name was changed to Crescent City. He continued postmaster until 1874, when C. E. Barber, the present postmaster, was appointed. David Scott owned all of section 5, except 80 acres, and Mr. Crumpton, his brother, and Charles E. Allen and his mother, became interested in, or purchasers of, the entire interest which Scott had. The town was laid out and platted in 1869. Fred. March commenced business here next after Young, and J. B. Mires at the same time started the blacksmith business. A. J. Harwood built the first residence which stands just south of Young's store. Mr. Scott had put in scales and commenced to buy grain, when S. G. Staples bought his trade, erected the elevator and commenced the lumber business. Charles E. Allen afterward engaged in mercantile business in the building lately occupied by Mr. Matkin as a hardware store. When Mr. Egley came here, he bought Mr. Allen's business, and continued it a while, and in 1873 built the store he now occupies. Charles Sykes, a carpenter, came here from Maryland and built the house where Solomon Kaylar lives, in 1869, lived there one year and sold it to Dr. Plowman. Mr. Eno lived in it one year and taught the school. The next house was built by Elisha Ferguson the same year. It is now occupied by Dr. Brelsford.

The school-house was built in 1870. It is 26×36, two stories high, and cost \$1,250. Harry Fink came here to buy corn, and built the house now owned by Mr. Egley. Mr. Fink remained here two or three years. In 1870 Mr. Short moved the hotel building in from his farm, and kept tavern for a few years, and sold it to J. B. Mounts. Mr. McConan kept it awhile before Mr. Mounts. J. B. Grice built the hotel known as the Union House, on the corner south of Egley's store, and kept it till 1879, when Mr. Littell bought the building and moved it across the railroad and fitted it up for a residence. A. Cousan was first to engage in the drug trade. Drs. Mendenhall & Plowman followed. They sold to Gifford & Critzer, and went to Georgetown. When Dr. Critzer was elected coroner, he sold to R. E. Fidler and removed to Papineau. Mr. S. G. Staples built the elevator in 1869, and continued to run it for some

years. It is  $28 \times 42$ , cost \$4,500, and has a capacity of 7,000 bushels. The grain trade has been large here from the beginning, and is constantly increasing. During the last year about 300,000 bushels were shipped. The village has always been remarkably healthy, owing in a great measure to the excellent water. There are twenty-eight artesian wells in Crescent City. The range of depth is from 70 to 130 feet, and cost from \$24 to \$33 each.

#### CHURCHES.

The First Congregational church was organized by Rev. Joseph E. Roy, December 4, 1869. Rev. M. W. Pinckerton, a student of the theological seminary, came here under the direction of Mr. Roy, who for many years had charge of the church organization of that denomination in this part of the state, and assembled the people of Congregational views, meeting at first in Union school-house, No. 3, Iroquois township. At the first meeting, November 21, J. G. Johnson was elected moderator, and J. B. Eno, clerk. A committee, consisting of Messrs. Johnson, Eno and Robert Carson, was appointed to examine candidates. Rev. Mr. Roy was present at the meeting, December 4, and preached the sermon, after which the following members were constituted a church: Robert Carson and wife, Isabella Carson, J. B. Eno and wife, J. G. Johnson and wife, Julia Dunn, Sybil Davis, J. W. Williams and wife, Ada E. Harroun, A. S. Harroun, George Carson and Josephine Alexander. Robert Carson was elected deacon; George L. Hemperly, treasurer; J. B. Eno, clerk; and Messrs. Carson, Harris and S. G. Staples, trustees. A constitution and rules were adopted. Mr. Pinckerton continued to serve the church until July, 1871, when receiving an appointment by the missionary board to the Zulu mission in South Africa, he resigned his position here. Services were regularly held each alternate Sabbath here in the school-house and in the elevator, and in 1870 the present church edifice was erected. It is  $28 \times 38$ , with spire and bell; cost \$1,365.87, and is free of debt. The house was dedicated July 28, 1871, Revs. Messrs. Palmer and Roy officiating. Rev. James W. West was chosen pastor in 1872, and has filled the relation ever since, preaching each alternate Sabbath. He resides in Onarga township, and preaches at the Onarga Second church, which is near where he resides. He was educated at Franklin College and Lane Seminary, graduating in 1852. He preached ten years in Ohio and five at Tonica before coming here.

There had been a class established by the Methodists, and meetings held at the Washington school-house, of which Father Riggles

was the leader, previous to the present organization, the data of which were not at the disposal of the writer. Rev. Mr. Sullivan preached for a time. The organization now existing dates from 1865. S. Harris and wife, Tobias Danner and wife, Mrs. James Mitchell, J. D. George and wife, J. M. Calkin and wife and two daughters, were the members of the class then formed. Rev. Mr. Thorp was preacher; he remained only a short time. Rev. W. T. Kerr is now serving his third year. There are two other preaching appointments besides the Crescent church. A portion of the time there have been three or four. These appointments have been at the Pierce, Sturtevant, Johnson and Hitchcock school-houses. With the liberal christian spirit which has ever pervaded the two denominations here, the Methodists have occupied the Congregational church ever since that building was erected each alternate Sabbath, and the Sabbath school has been maintained as a union school all this time. The first Sabbath school was organized when Mr. Eno came here to live in 1858. All christian people united in the work, including members of the Congregational, Christian, Presbyterian, Methodist and United Brethren. Mr. Eno was elected superintendent; Nelson Riggles, secretary; Miss Alma French (now Mrs. Harris), treasurer. The school was held at the Washington school-house. Mr. Eno continued to act as superintendent until 1864, when Father Harris acted for one session. When Mr. George came here in 1865 he was chosen superintendent, and has continued to act, with very little intermission, until the present day. It has always been an interesting school, and full of life and animation.

The services of the Roman Catholics began here in 1869, on the arrival of Mr. J. D. Young to reside here. There were then a few scattering families of that faith in this vicinity, and services were usually held in Mr. Young's house. In 1870 Father Fanning, then of Gilman, now of Fairbury, was appointed to the Crescent mission, and commenced holding regular monthly services here. The rapid settlement of the country around brought in many more families, and since then the priest-in-charge at Gilman has also been in charge of this mission. Since then Fathers Clemment, Bloome, Van Schwadler and McGar have officiated in turn. The church was built in 1874; size, 28×40, and cost \$800 incomplete. About twenty-five families worship here. The cemetery is at Gilman.

The Standard Lodge, No. 607, I.O.O.F., was organized February 9, 1876, with the following charter members: C. C. Kindt, N.G.; C. E. Barber, V.G.; L. W. Critzer, secretary; William Crecy and Fred. Klinkman. The lodge was instituted by deputy-master M.



F. Peters, and W. H. Egley was elected treasurer; S. N. Calkin, financial secretary; James Parker, warden. The lodge numbers thirty-three members, and is in a prosperous condition. Its meetings are Thursday night. The present officers are: James Parker, N.G.; S. N. Calkin, V.G.; T. B. Alberty, secretary; R. E. Fidler, financial secretary; W. H. Egley, treasurer; C. E. Barber, lodge deputy.

The Crescent Lodge, No. 125, Good Templars, was organized December, 1876, with twenty-five charter members; S. G. Staples was worthy chief templar. The present officers are: J. J. Osborne, W.C.T.; Allie George, V.T.; Dora Smith, secretary; Charles Pixley, financial secretary; Nettie Cast, treasurer; Charles Calkin, marshal; Ida Barber, deputy marshal; Gracie Cast, inside guard; W. H. Hart, outside guard; Rev. W. T. Kerr, chaplain; Mrs. A. Barber and Mrs. T. E. Kerr, right and left supporters; C. E. Barber, P.W.C.T. and lodge and county deputy. The lodge numbers forty-eight, is in good working order, and meets Saturday nights.

The Crescent City Horse Company was organized November 15, 1877, with James Parker as president; G. S. Petero, vice-president; A. J. Harwood, secretary; William Flesher, captain. Its organization is uniform with other such companies in this part of the state and in other states. Its objects are, by concert of action and a becoming secrecy in operations, to apprehend persons guilty of stealing horses and other stock, by following, or by turning out when called, and hunting such criminals. Their signs are so arranged as to be given at a great distance, and thus they are efficient in aiding members of other similar organizations whom they have never seen. This company numbers thirty-three. It meets the first Saturday of each alternate month. The present officers are: Owen Kern, president; G. S. Petero, vice-president; C. E. Barber, secretary and treasurer; James Parker, captain; R. B. Craig, S. N. Calkin, William Flesher, W. B. Davis and C. L. Hart, lieutenants.

The Crescent City Cadets, Co. F, 9th Bat. Ill. National Guards, was organized September 15, 1878, by Capt. M. B. Gifford. It was mustered into state service by Maj. Peters, now colonel commanding the battalion, with sixty-four members. M. B. Gifford was captain; B. Braderick, first lieutenant; P. F. Dunn, second lieutenant; R. A. Lower, orderly-sergeant; E. Dyer, second sergeant; Henry Flesher, third sergeant; — Brainard, fourth sergeant. Jacob Kaylar is color-guard of the battalion. The company is uniformed with United States regulation uniform, and armed with Enfield rifles. Capt. Gifford resigned his commission when he removed from the state.

## BIOGRAPHICAL.

Samuel John, farmer, Woodland, was born in this county, in 1845, and has always lived here. His father, Lemuel, and his uncle, William, came to the county in 1830, and were among the very first to make their homes in this new country. Lemuel died in 1848, in Belmont township, leaving a widow and four children. Mrs. John died in 1867. Two of her children, Samuel and Mrs. Wilson, reside in Crescent township. Samuel married, in 1874, Miss Sarah Strain, whose parents were among the first settlers in the county. Six years ago he came into this township to live, and has a fine farm of 200 acres, in section 36.

George W. Wilson, farmer, Woodland, was born on Christmas day, 1837, near Watseka, where his father, Alexander Wilson, lived at that time. Alexander came to this county in 1833, and took up the farm where Mrs. Aaron Jones lives, which he sold, and bought a farm east of Sugar creek, near to where Watseka now is, known as the Beckett Farm. He had been a merchant in Ohio, and carried on a tan-yard here. He went to Texas in 1855, but returned in 1860. George Wilson has always lived in this county, and has been engaged in farming. In 1860 he married Miss Sarah J. John, whose parents had been among the earliest settlers in this county. Mr. John left four children: Thomas, Samuel, Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Clifton. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson have seven children: Alexander T., Lemuel J., Texyanna, George F., Survenea, Sydney M. and Flora Agnes. Two have died. They have a fine farm on section 35.

A. C. Cast, farmer and fruit-grower, Crescent City, was born in Ohio in 1837, and removed with his father, Hiram V. Cast, to Vermilion county, about 1840, where his father died in 1844. His mother, Mrs. Cast, married Henry Alexander, and removed to Iroquois county in 1851, where he took up a farm of 300 acres, in section 1 of Douglas township, when this part of the county was very new. Mrs. Alexander had three children by her first marriage, and two by her second. One was killed by falling out of a wagon. Mr. Alexander died from disease contracted in the army, and his wife died about the same time. Of their children, Aquilla C. lives at Crescent City, and John, near by. Josephine and George Alexander also live at Crescent City. A. C. Cast married Isabella J. Robinson in 1857. Her father, W. D. Robinson, came to Del Rey to live about 1848, where he had a considerable farm, and carried on an extensive cattle trade. Of the eight children of Mr. Cast, five are living: Nettie V., Alma G., Carrie R., Elmer and Alta E. Willie, a bright boy of ten years, was instantly killed by a fall from a running horse; Annie and Gertie died in infancy. Mr.

Cast is living in Crescent City, and is extensively engaged in raising fruit.

Russell Search, farmer, Woodland, was born in Ohio, 1824. He was living in Indiana when the land which had been withdrawn from market by the Illinois Central railroad was opened again, and concluded to get married and get a farm out on this prairie. The former was managed easy enough, but it took considerable work to get the latter. The "speculator's ring" then held sway at Danville, and it was almost impossible to enter land there. He came here late in the year 1854, and went to work getting out lumber for a shanty. In February, 1855, he married Nancy A. Cunningham, whose parents came here to live soon after, and now reside in Minnesota. Mrs. Search died in 1866, leaving four children: Mary, Lewis R., Martha E. K., and Abner. In July, 1870, he married Miss German, and has two children: Emma and George. He has a good farm on section 33, being the same land he took up twenty-five years ago. Politically, Mr. Search has always, since the growth of that party, been a republican.

Edward Hitchcock, farmer and sewing-machine agent, Crescent City, was born in 1835, in Connecticut. He was educated in the common school until thirteen years old, when he commenced active life. While living in Connecticut he was laboring as a mechanic, or in mercantile pursuits. He married at Davenport, Iowa, in 1856, Miss Juline Brooks, to whom six boys and three girls have been born. They came to Crescent township to reside in 1857, where they still reside on section 18. Their daughter, Mrs. Francis Stocking, is in Kansas. Their other children, Lillian, Leverett, Hattie, Edward, Jr., Charles, Lewis, Frank and Gilbert, are at home. During his residence here Mr. Hitchcock has been engaged in farming, and most of the time has been selling sewing-machines in this county. He has also been the agent for Thomas and Richard Ainsworth, in charge of their lands in this county. He has been six times supervisor and three times collector of the township. During most of his life he has acted with the democratic party, but is now in hearty unison with the independent party. He is a man of large information and accurate business habits.

Elisha Ferguson, carpenter, Crescent City, was born in Ohio in 1840. He came to this county in 1858, and worked at his trade of carpenter and house-builder in the new settlements then starting. He built the first house in Gilman that year, when the hands and help were obliged to go to Onarga for their meals and lodging. He has often traveled over these prairies when there was only one house



between Old Middleport and Jefferson Point. He lived three years at Onarga, three at Watseka, and removed to a farm five miles east of Onarga, where he continued, while farming, to carry on his trade. He built the third house in Crescent City, the one now occupied by Dr. Brelsford. He also built the one now owned by Mr. Downing, and the one adjoining it, where he now resides. In 1860 he married Miss Mary J. Grear, whose parents came to Jefferson Point in 1854. Mrs. Grear and some of her children still reside near here. Mr. Ferguson has five children: Minnie, William, Lillie, Charlie and Grace. At present Mr. Ferguson has charge of the lumber yard of Mr. Egley.

George N. Downing, farmer, Crescent City, was born in Sciota county, Ohio, in 1832. His father, William Downing, moved from there in 1846, with their eight children, and entered land three miles east of Watseka, and lived there seven years. He afterward lived in Middleport and Myersville, in Vermilion county, and then went to Kansas, where he died. He was an earnest and devoted member of the Methodist church. One of his daughters, Mrs. Longnecker, lives near Woodland, and his son, Simeon, is in Iowa. George N. Downing was married in 1854, to Miss Dulina E. Botsford, of this county. Her father resides at Fairbury now. For a time they lived near Texas. In 1867 he bought in section 12 and removed there, where he resided for twelve years. He now lives at Crescent City. He has served as school director for a number of years.

C. C. Deitz, farmer, Onarga, was born at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1832. His parents were German, and had but recently migrated to this country. He was early put to work, having very little school education, his time being mostly spent in the lime kiln. His father lived for thirteen years on Klein's farm, Lebanon county, Pennsylvania. In 1856 he came to Indiana and went thence to Iowa, but returned and married in 1857, and went to farming on rented land. About 1865 he removed to this state, and in 1868 bought and improved the farm he now lives on in section 31, enduring the hardships which are consequent to a new location. Here Mrs. Deitz died, January 17, 1870, leaving seven small children, the youngest being but a few hours old: Melissa Jane, Milton A., Anna Laura, John H., Charles F., Sarah Estella and Eliza, who died at seven months old. March 27, 1871, he married Mrs. Emma Thompson, who was one of fourteen children of Adam G. Orth, Esq., a brother of Hon. Godlove S. Orth, of Indiana. She was first married at Mercersburg, Pennsylvania, and was living there at the time of the rebel raid into Pennsylvania, and her family were considerable sufferers by that incursion. Mrs. Deitz had one daughter, Fannie, when married, and has since had two sons: Godlove Orth and Cyrus

Edgar. Mr. Deitz has a farm of 200 acres which is finely managed and neatly farmed. He is a man of strong mental powers and, considering his early disadvantages, a mind well stored with information.

Daniel W. Webster, farmer, Crescent City, was born at Hanover, New Hampshire, in 1822. His father, Benjamin, was a cousin of the great national statesman, Daniel Webster, and enjoyed in a great measure the esteem and confidence of his relative. Mr. Webster, at the age of twenty-two, after completing a good common-school education, went to Massachusetts and followed various occupations, clerking and teaching a portion of the time. In 1850 he married Miss Augusta Robinson at Lowell. He afterward returned to New Hampshire and engaged in farming. He removed to Kendall county, Illinois, in 1865, and three years later came to his present place of residence, where he has a farm of 160 acres in section 18. He has three children: Mrs. Ella A. Cook resides in Kendall county; Frederick D. is at Dodge City, Kansas; and Miss Lilla M. is engaged in teaching. Politically Mr. Webster has long been a radical anti-slavery man. He is a man of large experience in business affairs and has a mind well stored with information.

J. D. Young, merchant and general dealer, Crescent City, was born in Perry county, Ohio, in 1845. His parents were from Bavaria, and immigrated to America in 1828. At the age of twenty he enlisted in the 126th Ohio Vol. Inf., and marched with the old flag through the wilderness, up and down the Shenandoah valley, and "on to Richmond," where he saw the surrender of the Confederate hosts. He was wounded in the battle of the Wilderness, May 7, 1864, but served out his time, being transferred first to the Invalid Corps, then to the Veteran Reserve Corps. After the close of the war he went to El Paso, Woodford county, and engaged with his brothers in trade. In 1868 he commenced keeping a store in a building which stood on section 31, Iroquois township, one mile west of where Crescent City now is, and was appointed postmaster of Crescent. A year later he removed to Crescent City, and was the first to open business here, where he still continues to carry on a large and increasing mercantile trade, and deals in cattle, hogs and grain. He has two farms in section 4. He married Miss Duquid in Perry county, Ohio, in 1868. They have one child, Katy. He has, during the entire life of this place, been one of the most active and industrious business men, and was the prime mover in organizing and building the Roman Catholic church here.

George Egley, mercantile, grain and lumber dealer, Crescent City, has been extensively identified with all the business interests of Crescent City since its first year. He was born at Burlington, New Jer-

sey, in 1829. At the age of six years he was left an orphan, and very soon had to learn to rely on his own resources. Without the care of parents, he came up with very few advantages of education, and early learned the trade of a wagon and carriage-maker, which he carried on for several years, after which he became interested in cranberry culture, which was, like all his undertakings, successful. He came west in 1869 and had his attention called to the new opening at Crescent City, and having sufficient capital to commence a general trade, with energy and industry to back it, he engaged in the grain trade and farming. In 1873 he opened the mercantile business, which, with the aid of his sons, he has continued to carry on. He soon after commenced the lumber trade, and later bought the elevator, repaired and enlarged it, and still occupies it. He has added farm to farm, until he is probably the largest resident landholder in the township. He has served as supervisor of each of the townships of Iroquois and Crescent. In September, 1851, he married Martha R. Kirkbride, who, with her four children, are all living. The eldest son, John K., is living on a farm in Iroquois township. W. H. is in charge of the store at Crescent City. Mrs. Lizzie, wife of M. B. Gifford, has recently removed to Nebraska. George B., the later addition to his family, is now six years old. Politically Mr. Egley has always called himself a democrat, and holds strongly the ancient dogmas of that persuasion: "Free trade and sailors' rights." He has universally been a successful man in business enterprises.

Charles E. Barber, grain-dealer and postmaster, Crescent City, was born in Oneida county, New York, in 1836. He received a good common-school education and then attended the seminary at Charlotteville, and the Claverack Institute, under the charge of Rev. Alonzo Flack, after which he went west and engaged in farming in Wisconsin. He returned to Oneida county and taught school winters and worked at farming summers. He afterward took charge of a large lumbering business at Forest Port for a time, and then came to Crescent City in 1870, where he took charge of the railroad office, after which he engaged in the lumber business with Mr. Egley two years. He then bought Mr. Egley's interest and continued the business for five years. He is now in the flax-seed and implement trade. He has held the office of township treasurer for several years, and is the present postmaster, justice of the peace, and assessor. In 1860 he married Miss Adaline Dickerson, of Rome, New York; and they have three children: Ida, Hattie E. and Charles E. Politically, Mr. Barber has always been a republican of decided views.

Julius C. Gaebler, harness-maker, Crescent City, was born in



Saxony in 1843. His father was a cabinet-maker and died when Julius was three years old. He enjoyed the good school advantages of that country, attending school, as the law requires, from the age of six till that of fourteen, after which he was bound out to learn the harness-making trade, giving for the four-years instruction \$75 and a good feather bed. He did so well that they let him off after serving three years, and he went out to work as a journeyman. He worked in Paris seven years, and came to this country in 1868. He worked in New Haven, Connecticut; then in Omaha and Columbus, Nebraska, where he married, in 1871, Bertha Van Brandt, who died soon after. In 1873 he married Amalia Merberger. He came to Crescent City in 1874 and worked for Harwood & Graham one year, since which time he has worked on his own account. He has three children: Bertha, Herman and Edward.

James A. Hasbrouck, farmer, Crescent City, was born in Ulster county, New York, in 1843. He was brought up on a farm but had good educational advantages. The Hasbroucq (as it was formerly spelled) family were originally from France, but found a refuge in Germany before the revocation of the edict of Nantes, which was so oppressive early in the seventeenth century. Abraham came to this country about 1675, and settled at Esopus, Ulster county, where the family has for two centuries had its home. James A. taught school for five years and then went through a course of study at Eastman's Commercial College at Poughkeepsie, New York, under the care of the late Hon. Harvey G. Eastman. He came west in 1865 and commenced the business of house-builder and contractor in Chicago, which was fairly successful. He then resumed school-teaching, teaching the school at Leyden five years, and the graded school at Des Plaines three years. In 1871 he married Sarah E. Smith, daughter of William Smith, of Watseka. She was a graduate of the Cook County Normal School, of the class of 1870, when it was under the charge of Prof. Wentworth. They have three children: Mary, Harry and Howard. In 1874 he purchased a farm of 160 acres on section 8, one mile from the station, where he still resides. He has been school trustee, and is now township treasurer.

H. L. Pape, merchant, Crescent City, was born in Westphalia in 1850. His father was a physician and gave him a good education. He graduated from the High School at Lemgo, and in 1869 came to America. He was engaged as clerk with Henry Strandes, of Chicago, and afterward as a traveling salesman for F. H. Roebbelen. He then returned to Germany. He came back here and commenced business at Papineau. October 18, 1877, he married Mary, daughter of William

Schwer, of Crescent township, and in 1879 opened a store at Crescent City. He has one son, Erwin.

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## PIGEON GROVE TOWNSHIP.

The township of Pigeon Grove, which, during nearly all of its history, has been portions of Loda and Fountain Creek, is legally described as town 24, range 14 west of the second principal meridian. It is bounded on the north by Artesia and Ash Grove, on the east by Fountain Creek, on the south by Vermilion and Ford counties, and on the west by Loda. The township was all prairie, except the grove of about 80 acres on section 2. Pigeon creek runs across the town from southwest to northeast, and numerous branches which show pebbly bottoms flow across it, having the same general direction. It is wholly within the artesian region, water being reached at a depth of about forty-two feet. In the northern portion the wells flow, but in the southern part of the town they do not. The land is deep and fertile, and the surface beautifully rolling.

It is one of the singular things about the settlement of this part of the country that, with all the wealth of advantages which rich soil, plenty of water and superior drainage gave, it was only till a late date that it became settled up. For fifty years it has been known and traveled over by persons passing back and forth from the streams flowing into the Illinois to those of the Wabash. It was not an unknown country. At all seasons of the year it was seen, and its beauties recognized by hundreds of persons. Herds of cattle were kept here by those who must have seen the peculiar advantages of the country. Twenty-five years ago the Central railroad was only from five to ten miles away from it; yet it remained for many years a comparative waste, while people who ought to have seen its worth were pushing into Missouri, Iowa and Wisconsin, to live upon poorer lands, to find a more distant and uncertain market and a less healthy home.

Few people who live within this town know anything of the dangers of early travel over this route, between Spring creek and the Middle fork. From the friendly timber at Blue Grass, on the latter, to that of the Spring creek below Buckley, was about twenty-five miles as the bird flies.

William and Stephen Cissna bought the Pigeon Grove Farm in 1855. They purchased one section of the railroad company, and the balance of Coleman, Milford & Hanna. They have 1,200 acres

in sections 1, 2 and 12. Stephen came here, bringing a house with him from Chicago by railroad, and put it up here on the farm. The grove had, at one time, been the place for roosting of innumerable swarms of pigeons. These "roosts" were great curiosities when visited at night. The birds would pile upon the trees until they would break down by the weight of the mass, and all during the night keep up such a flutter that at a little distance it sounded like thunder. Persons would come into the place at night and kill thousands of them with poles, and carry them off by wagonfuls. It could hardly be called sport.

Stephen Cissna resided here for a number of years, grazing and feeding cattle. There was no end to the range for cattle, and he usually handled 600 or 700 head. He now resides in Watseka. His son, who was engaged at the stock-yards in the commission business, died very suddenly in Colorado, in October, 1879. William Cissna came here to reside, from Indiana, in 1868, and has since carried on the large business of the grove farm. In boring the well, water was reached at the depth of forty feet, when the auger fell three feet to solid rock, which shows that the cavity which was reached, and which is filled with water, is three feet thick. Thomas Willis, Philip Weaver and Moses Stroup settled on section 19 more than twenty years ago. Isaac Oathout and George McMullin settled on section 20 about the same time. William Bissell was an early settler on section 17. Joseph Hindman, who lived on section 5, was killed in 1878, by being thrown from his wagon when coming home in the night.

There are several families of Germans living in the southern part of the township.

A considerable portion of the lands of this township are held by non-residents. Corn is the principal crop, though flax is an important crop, giving an average product of from eight to ten bushels per acre.

#### THE CATTLE WAR.

The war which came near drenching the fair soil of Pigeon Grove with the blood of many cattle, but which was finally arbitrated by the payment of pretty heavy awards, occurred in 1868. The close of the great rebellion opened the vast cattle herds of Texas to purchase, and the cattle men of the north who began to find the supply here growing short, found that there was immense money in the Texas steers. Good three and four-year-olds could be bought there for about one-quarter what cattle of a like age cost here. This looked like a great speculation, and indeed it was, until it was found that, owing to some subtle cause, not yet thoroughly understood or



explained, the ground over which they fed during the first year after leaving their native state, was so poisoned, that the native cattle here feeding on the same ground would become affected with a fatal disease, known, for want of a more appropriate name, as Spanish fever. To prevent this and the great loss to farmers in this state, the legislature passed an act forbidding the importation of Texas and Cherokee cattle, which was of course a proper measure, but its weakness was in the inability to enforce it. The constitution of the United States gives to congress the power to regulate commerce between the states. Some parties in Indiana (Tower & Earl), brought on a lot of Texas cattle and unloaded them at Loda, and fed them leisurely across this county into Indiana, and were beyond the reach of law. Soon after this Messrs. Milk, Burchard, Taylor and Andrews bought 1,700 head of cattle in Louisiana, which they insisted did not come within the statute inhibiting importing from Texas, and brought to Loda and took them to their herding ground in the northern part of the town, around section 10. They had been brought a long distance, and from lack of care and a sudden cold spell, some of them were dead when they reached Loda, and more before they got out of town. This fact was enough to cause uneasiness, although it was generally known that these cattle were not affected with Spanish fever. In July the native cattle began to die of the fatal disease, and the citizens assembled at Zion school-house to take measures for relief. They demanded that the Louisiana cattle should be kept within a certain range, which demand was cheerfully acceded to by Milk & Co.,—in fact it should be recorded to the credit of the cattle men, that every stipulation made by them was scrupulously fulfilled. This the citizens all willingly admit. A week later matters had taken a very different shape. Many cattle had died, and the citizens had become thoroughly aroused. Night and day nothing was talked of but methods to rid themselves of the Texans. Indeed, it is said that men who never owned a hoof were among the most demonstrative. The adjourned meeting was held under circumstances of the most intense excitement. The citizens invited in their two most discreet and wise friends, Hon. Addison Goodell, of Loda, and Hon. John A. Koplin, of Buckley, to have the benefit of their wise counsel. Mr. Milk came accompanied by Hon. T. P. Bonfield, of Kankakee, as his counsel. Mr. Milk's object plainly was to allay the excitement. He claimed that he was within the law; that the disease had spread from the herd of Tower & Earl, and not from the herd which was being threatened with annihilation by the incensed citizens. Mr. Bonfield, in his best efforts

to present the matter, only seemed to further arouse the temper that prevailed. A motion was then made to ask Milk & Co. to withdraw from the house while the citizens decided what they would do. Mr. S. B. Warren went out and held a consultation with Mr. Milk, which resulted in another address, this time from Mr. Milk himself, which is pronounced "the greatest effort of his life." While insisting that they, Milk & Co., were not responsible for the losses, still he agreed that they would pay for all that had died, and buy all that were sick, and satisfy the people that they did not come there to injure them; that if the people stampeded their herd, he could promise them they should never receive one cent, as the loss of the herd would put it out of the power of the owners to pay. This proposition was agreed to, and losses were appraised by a committee and paid. Mr. Milk says it is a remarkable fact that nearly every heifer or calf which they were called on to pay for was of most excellent blood, with pedigrees running back to the finest milkers and best stock of the continent; that there was not one which was admitted to be a cull or a scrub; every cow was the best, and every calf hand-fed with such care as to make it of great value to the owner; while the number which had been the gifts of deceased or absent relations was very large. This ended the war in Pigeon Grove, but it only commenced the fight with Milk & Co. Suits were at once commenced against them by persons who were not embraced in the stipulation at Pigeon Grove. Some parties in other counties who had sent cattle to this region in herds, undertook to collect their losses by law. These suits were numerous and very annoying, and were kept in the court for years. In the meantime Mr. Andrews had died, and his estate was suffering by the inability to settle it, which with other complications that arose, rendered it necessary for the defendants to settle in some way. After nearly ten years of litigation, they were all disposed of by compromise. The popular feeling was very strong against the men who were engaged in handling these Texas cattle. A lot which were brought on after this war, were refused removal from the cars at every station from Tolona to state line, and were finally jumped from the cars between stations over in Indiana. Taken all in all, this Texas cattle war was one of the most exciting episodes. It has been the object of the writer to present it correctly, and it is due to Messrs. Milk & Co. to say that they believed then and still believe that their herd was not responsible for the infection, that the law did not forbid importation of cattle from Louisiana, and that they did not make a very big speculation out of it anyway.

An unsuccessful attempt was made in February, 1875, at the special meeting of the board of supervisors, to secure the organization of the township from portions of Loda and Fountain Creek. Supervisor Robert Carey presented the petition of some one hundred citizens of the territory thus proposed to be organized, and asked that it be referred to the "committee on erroneous assessments." The committee was a favorable one, but as the duties of that committee were hardly that of carving out new townships, his request was not granted. The petition was referred to a special committee, consisting of K. Shankland, Robert Carey and F. Babcock. It was proposed at that time to name their town in honor of the popular and patriotic order which had so strong a hold on its citizens, "Grange." Messrs. Shankland and Babcock, a majority of said committee, reported that it was inexpedient to grant the prayer of the petitioners, while Mr. Carey entered a decided protest against the report. The report was argued by Mr. Babcock and by Mr. Copp, of Loda, in the affirmative, while Messrs. E. S. Ricker, William Flemming and Moses Stroup presented very earnestly the views of the petitioners. The report was, however, adopted. Messrs. Hamilton, Carey and Sprague, of the board, were active friends of the organization, and they, together with Mr. Davis, of Ash Grove, and Hitchcock, of Crescent, voted against the report. At the September meeting of the board, the same year, a new petition was presented, signed by one hundred and thirty-one legal voters of the proposed new town, and one signed by sixty-two voters of Fountain Creek, asking for the erection of the township, to be named Pigeon Grove. Mr. William Flemming attended the meeting to look after the interests of his prospective constituents. After a lengthy discussion the petition was granted, receiving in addition to the votes above mentioned those of Messrs. Calkin, Duckworth, Koplin, Maggee, Masters, Palmer, Parker, Jones, Shankland and Switzer. The election of officers was ordered to be held at Zion school-house. The township was finally divided in 1876. William Flemming has been supervisor; Clark Martin, clerk; and J. W. Gosslee, assessor, ever since the organization of the town. Myron Cunningham was collector the first year, and James Hill since. J. W. Gosslee and Moses Stroup have been the justices of the peace.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

William Cissna, Ash Grove, was born in Chillicothe, Ohio, June 17, 1816. His parents were Stephen and Sarah (King) Cissna. His youth up to the age of sixteen was spent in a little village, north of Chillicothe, and from sixteen to twenty he lived in Columbus, Ohio, learning the trade of tanner and currier, which he followed in La



Fayette, Indiana, the year after he left Columbus. In the winter of 1837-8 he went to Warren county, near Williamsport, where he subsequently followed farming a short time, and then engaged in buying and selling stock for his uncle, George E. King. After working two years for his uncle he started on his own account, buying cattle, the most of which he drove to Detroit. In the year 1844 he opened out a stock of general merchandise in Williamsport, in which business he continued for about ten years with marked success. All this time he was still in the cattle trade; he also bought grain and packed pork. He continued in the stock trade and farmed on one of his farms near Red Wood Point, in Warren county, after he quit Williamsport, until 1864, when he bought a farm east of Watseka, in Iroquois county. After staying here two years he came to his present farm in Pigeon Grove where he has since remained. He owns all of two sections here in one body, and devotes his entire attention to raising and feeding stock; putting on the market annually about 300 head of cattle and 500 head of hogs. Pigeon Grove is all included within Mr. Cissna's farm. The protection from winter storms afforded by the Grove, combined with an abundance of flowing water, renders this one of the most desirable stock farms in the county. Mr. Cissna was very active in bringing about the organization of the township, but has preferred to attend to his own business and keep out of township offices. In politics he is a republican. He is a genial old bachelor.

William H. Berry, farmer, Buckley, was born at Trenton Point, Maine, August 17, 1858. He came with his parents to La Salle county, Illinois, and from there went to Tipton county, Iowa, and then back to La Salle county, from whence he came to Pigeon Grove township. He now lives with his parents on section 2, where his father owns 160 acres. His father, Sabin J. Berry, was born in Maine in 1829, and his mother, whose maiden name was Isabel W. King, was also a native of Maine, born in 1830. They were married in 1853, and have three children besides the subject of this sketch, whose names follow: Mark K., George H. and Alice E. William H. received a common-school education. He is a single man in good circumstances. He is a republican.

John A. Bush, farmer, Buckley, was born January 4, 1833, in Armstrong county, Pennsylvania, where he grew up to manhood. He received only a common-school education. His parents' names were Andrew and Martha Bush. In 1857 he came to Knox county, Illinois, and shortly after went to Warren county, where he followed the carpenter's trade for three years. In the spring of 1860 he went to La Salle county and worked with a mole ditching machine for three

years. He was married, January 19, 1863, to Isabella L., daughter of Matthew and Catherine Brown, and remained in La Salle county until 1868. He then removed to this township, where he has made a home and a finely improved farm of 160 acres from the raw prairie sod. He has a fine orchard just beginning to bear. Mr. Bush is the father of seven children, one of whom died in infancy. Their names and dates of birth follow: Minnie B., born March 29, 1864; George F., born September 30, 1865; Cora C., born October 24, 1868; David L., born March 9, 1871; James L., born November 16, 1873; Mary E., born June 14, 1876, and John M., born September 22, 1878. Mr. Bush's wife is a Presbyterian.

Augustus M. Crane, farmer and stock-raiser, Oakalla, was born in New Jersey, July 30, 1820. He learned a trade at the age of fourteen and this he followed for several years, after which time he returned to farming. He then moved from New Jersey to Missouri, where he staid eight years. In 1865 he came to this state and settled in Ford county. After three-years residence there he came to this county, where he has since resided. He was married in New Jersey, in 1844, to Anna E. Miller, who was born in New Jersey in 1825. She died April 19, 1879. They were the parents of four children, two living, Anna H. and William J. The deceased were Edward B. and an infant. Mr. Crane has held the office of school trustee, and is a republican.

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## LOVEJOY TOWNSHIP.

This township lies west of Prairie Green and south of Milford, and contains all of the congressional town 24, range 12 west. This territory was formerly a part of Milford township, and was established as an independent township by vote of its people at the first election, held in April, 1868, at the house of John Adsit. The petition for separation was signed by thirty voters, and was granted at the February (1868) term of the board of supervisors.

One of the first actions of the people at the town meeting was the passage of a resolution restraining stock from running at large; also a resolution providing for a survey of all the lands in the township, the expenses of such survey to be defrayed by a tax of so much per acre on all of the lands in the township. July 3, 1868, at an election called to vote for or against giving aid to the Chicago, Danville & Vincennes railroad to the amount of \$3,000, the vote was twenty-three for, and three against. Lovejoy had, in addition to this, assumed \$60,007.12 of the railroad indebtedness of Milford township, which had been voted

before the division of the township. The people at first were nearly unanimous on the question of giving aid to this road, but in later years a party has arisen that is endeavoring to avoid the payment of the bonds which were issued under the acts of the people. The payment of the bonds, both as to principal and interest, has been enjoined.

The surface of Lovejoy is rather level, yet it has good natural drainage, and all of the soil can be cultivated. Like its sister, Prairie Green, it was treeless in its wild state, save, perhaps, the "Lone Tree," which is still standing near the big spring on the farm of M. C. Dawson. Gay creek runs north through the township, nearly in the center, while on the west is Little Fountain creek, or Little Burson, as it was formerly called, also flowing north. Artesian water is found almost anywhere within the boundaries of Lovejoy by boring a short distance, but flowing wells are found only in the northwest part of the township.

Lovejoy was first settled in the north. The "Red Pump" was the first building erected in the township. This was on the line of Hubbard's trace or the old Chicago road, and not far from the north line of the township. It was erected by Strickler, of Milford, as early perhaps as 1845. Before the building was begun there had been some breaking done, and a shanty put up. A well was dug, and into it was inserted a log pump,—one of the old-fashioned kind,—which was painted red, and hence the name of the farm and of the tavern that was kept here in the early days, when the first house to the south was Bicknell's, away over in Vermilion county.

The "red pump" was a great institution in its day, and its day compasses several years. Long processions of teams and herds of cattle were daily watered here when the ponds and sloughs were dry, as they nearly always were at the season of the year when it was practicable to go to Chicago with teams. The well never failed, and the old pump faltered not for many years. Joseph Heffner bought the "Red Pump Farm" from Strickler, and sold it to Endsley and Scott, who lived here in 1853, and Scott, who bought out Endsley's interest in the farm, now occupies the old tavern. A. P. Hurd, Potter Austin and the Adsits, settled east of the "red pump" in 1852 or 1853, while to the south was John Crawford.

When J. B. Wilson came to settle in Lovejoy, in March, 1855, he chose a location on Little Burson creek, as it was then called. This was near the line of Fountain Creek township, in section 7. There were then living near, John Robinson, in section 7, and Charles Hildreth, in section 8. John Finney then owned the Hamilton place, and lived in section 11, near where Mr. Hamilton's house now stands.

The only early settlement of note in the south part of the township



was made by John Leemon, now living in Fountain Creek township. He moved on his farm here in 1857.

There are several large stock farms in Lovejoy. Among those who have made the business of stock-raising or of buying and selling a success, we may mention Charles Dawson, J. L. Hamilton (at present county treasurer), J. B. Wilson, A. J. Hall, Jo Williams, J. W. Clements and Richard Miskimmen.

Wellington, the only town in Lovejoy, was laid out in 1872, near the center of section 14. It consists of about thirty blocks lying on each side of the Chicago & Eastern Illinois railroad. Main street extends east and west on the half section-line. The first street east of the railroad, and running nearly parallel with it, is named Hamilton avenue, and east of that is Donovan street. To secure the location of the switches and depot here, J. L. Hamilton and R. T. Race each donated 40 acres of land to the railroad company where the town now stands.

Wellington has had its share of fire. The first depot was burned with Stone's elevator soon after the town was begun; another fire burned out Daniel Weston, and others in November, 1875. The town, however, has steadily grown and now contains several fine residences and business houses. Coney & Pate and Rothgeb & Austin deal in general merchandise; Daniel Weston has a good stock of drugs; Malo and son have each a blacksmith-shop; A. C. Bowlby attends to making and mending boots and shoes for the people; and J. Jones keeps a boarding-house, where the wants of the inner man are well supplied.

The principal business of Wellington is that of buying and shipping grain. Wilson & Pate are the leading firm in this line. In the winter of 1878-9, this firm shipped more than a quarter of a million bushels of corn alone, and in 1879 handled 21,000 bushels of flax-seed. The shipments of the crop of 1879 from this place would perhaps exceed 400,000 bushels. There is also considerable live-stock and hay shipped from this point.

The only church building in Wellington is that of the Methodists, which was constructed in 1878, but is not yet quite completed and has not been dedicated. It stands in the southeast part of the town, its size is 30×45 feet, and will cost when completed about \$1,500. Services have been held in the church since Christmas, 1878. The trustees were William Brown, R. M. Hamilton, Alex. Pate, John Bradford, Robert Keely and E. Bntler. In the summer of 1873 a Methodist class of six members, was formed in Wellington; the members were William Brown and wife, R. M. Hamilton, John Haskins, Nicholas Holmes and his daughter Katy. This society was then in

Milford circuit. Rev. A. Beeler was pastor until 1875. Since 1877 the present minister, Rev. J. D. Calhoun, has had charge of the church here and three other flourishing societies, one at "Round Top," in Prairie Green; at Amity church, near J. B. Wilson's; and at Bethel, in Fountain Creek township. There is a parsonage in Wellington that was built in 1878, which cost about \$800, where Rev. J. D. Calhoun now resides.

During a Methodist revival at Amity school-house in 1868 the directors of the school, with J. B. Wilson at the head, refused the use of the school-house, except from Friday night to Sunday inclusive. The directors took this action, as they believed, for the good of the school then in session. This led to a movement to build a church. The United Brethren of Fountain Creek proposed to help the Methodists and build a Union church, but as they could not agree on a site the United Brethren drew off and built a church of their own in Fountain Creek and the Methodists did likewise.

J. B. Wilson, L. B. Russell and their father-in-law, P. J. Hickman, of Indiana, gave, in cash, \$200 each to build a church at the Amity graveyard, on the southwest corner of section 6. With these liberal subscriptions it was not difficult to obtain enough more to carry the work on to completion. The building is 30×40 feet, plainly yet substantially built and finished, and cost about \$1,700. There is an interesting Sunday school connected with the church.

Amity graveyard, where the church is located, was set apart as a resting-place for the dead early in 1859. In January of that year J. B. Wilson and Richard Hickman each had a death in his home, and there being no burying-place nearer than eight miles, Mr. Wilson proposed to Mr. Hickman that they select a site for a graveyard in their own neighborhood. The site was chosen and \$12 paid by J. B. Wilson and Richard Hickman to Levi Hickman, the owner of the land, which secured two acres in the corner of section 6, which was deeded to the Methodist Episcopal church for graveyard and burying-ground, free to all. The two children, whose death led to the selection of the site, were buried January 16, 1859. There are now about 200 graves here, many of them marked with costly monuments.

Section 16, in Lovejoy township, or more properly in town 24, range 12, its legal school title was sold at public sale February 2, 1862, for the sum of \$15,401.20. This large sum is a perpetual fund for the maintenance of schools in the township. The interest arising from this fund is nearly sufficient to defray all the ordinary expenses of the schools. School taxes, therefore, are light, unless for building purposes, or for paying interest on building bonds. There are five school-

houses in Lovejoy. Each district supports a school about nine months in the year. The best teachers are generally secured, and the schools of Lovejoy are the pride of her people.

## BIOGRAPHICAL.

J. B. Wilson, farmer and grain merchant, Wellington, was born in Warren county, Indiana, April 7, 1836. When he was very young his parents moved from Indiana to the lead mines of Wisconsin, and from there to Lee county, in Iowa territory. Mr. Wilson's first recollections are of living in this county, where his father died, in 1844. His mother moved to Mahaska county and built one of the first houses in Oskaloosa, Iowa; this was in the winter of 1844-5. He remembers that the Indians were very numerous there then. In the fall of 1845 he removed with his mother to Benton county, Indiana, and in 1848 to Warren county, in that state. His mother married again. He staid in the home of his stepfather until September 24, 1852, and then struck out for himself, working for the farmers in Warren county up to February, 1854, when we find him sailing out from New York on the old Northern Light, bound for the newly discovered land of gold. He arrived in California in April, and at once repaired to Sutter's old mill, where for one year he engaged with boyish eagerness in gathering up the golden sands that formed the nucleus of his present comfortable fortune. His trip to California had been made by way of Lake Nicaragua, but on his return he crossed the isthmus on the first through train from Panama to Aspinwall. He came directly to this township, and soon invested \$1,000 of his California gold in the north half of section 7, and a small tract of timber land, all of which he bought of Ambrose Wood, of Fountain Creek township. This was in February, 1855. He at once began to improve his land, and now has one of the finest farms in the county. He was married, February 28, 1856, to Eliza J. Hickman, daughter of Peter Hickman, of Warren county, Indiana. She died September 12, 1874. By this union they had seven children: Mary E., wife of Alex. Pate, of Wellington; Sarah A., wife of Alonzo Hall; Thomas N., Martha F., Eliza J., Lewis B., living; and William C., deceased. On June 1, 1876, he was married to Rachel A. Mills, of Warren county, Indiana. There is one child by this last marriage, named Hattie. Mr. Wilson early began to buy stock and ship to Chicago. In 1873 he commenced buying grain and hay and shipped from Wellington. The next year he associated himself with Alex. Pate, and together they began and still carry on the largest grain business in Wellington, and perhaps the largest on the road, between Danville and Chicago. They also do a large business in



flax-seed. Mr. Wilson has been a republican from the time the first shot was fired on Fort Sumter, in 1861. He has served the people of his township as supervisor, and has held the office of school director for twenty out of twenty-one years, since the organization of the district. Mr. Wilson has also been justice of the peace.

John Greer, farmer, Hoopeston, was born in Pennsylvania in 1812, and is of German descent. His early life was spent in Pennsylvania. In 1833 he began flat-boating on the Ohio and Mississippi, which he followed until 1839, when he located on a farm of 320 acres near Napoleon, at the mouth of the Arkansas river. He remained here farming until 1846, when he went to Madison parish, Louisiana, and engaged in furnishing cordwood for steamboats. In 1850 he was employed in the construction of the New Orleans and Ohio telegraph line. About 1852 he began farming in Madison parish, Louisiana, opposite Vicksburg, where he owned 520 acres. He sold this farm in 1859. During the time that he owned it he was engaged during the winter in building levees on the banks of the river. February 26, 1841, he was married, at Napoleon, Arkansas, to Miss Eliza Adams, of Danville, Illinois, who was at that time visiting friends and relatives at that place. Mr. Greer has been very unfortunate with his children, all of whom died in infancy or when quite young, except Nelson B., who was born March 31, 1844. Two of his children, John and Eleanor, lie buried in the cemetery at Vicksburg, Mississippi. In November, 1853, Mrs. Greer went from her home in Vicksburg, with her son, to Danville, Illinois, partly on account of her health, but mainly to educate her son Nelson, then a promising boy of ten years. Mr. Greer remained in the south and had a large contract for building levees, when he received news of his wife's death, which happened February 26, 1854. He arranged his business as speedily as possible and came to Danville, which from that time on until 1861 he made his home. He owned considerable town property in Danville, and began buying land in Prairie Green and Lovejoy townships in 1857, where he now has a farm of about 1,000 acres, with several tenement houses on different parts of it. August 19, 1867, his son Nelson was killed by descending into a well on the farm in Prairie Green township, in which a tenant of Mr. Greer's had just expired from the effects of carbonic acid gas. This was a sad stroke to Mr. Greer. He had intended to make a stock-farm of his lands here, but the death of his son changed his plans, and now he has many tenants on his farm. Mr. Greer has passed through a long, busy and eventful life, has seen his wife and children go down into the grave before him; yet he possesses a cheerful mind, an active body, and perhaps has many years yet to travel in the journey of life. His residence

is in Lovejoy township, but the most of his farm lies in Prairie Green. He has always taken a great interest in tree-planting, and exhibits a commendable pride as he shows to his friends the groves and orchards which were planted by himself and his son when they first began to improve their prairie farm.

Charles Dawson, farmer and stock-dealer, Wellington, was born December 14, 1839, and is the son of Charles W. and Mary J. (Hooker) Dawson, who were the first settlers of Warren county, Indiana, near Pine Village, and who are now living in Iroquois county, near Milford. When about fifteen years of age he came with his parents to this county, and at about the age of twenty he began to buy live-stock, which business he has followed ever since. He was married in Watseka, November 21, 1861, to Julia Cadore, of French descent, and a native of Canada. Her parents were living in Kankakee at the time of her marriage, and now live in Kansas. Mr. Dawson has two children: Mary A. and Priscilla R. He owns 400 acres, beautifully situated on the banks of Gay creek, just south of the Red Pump Farm. His residence and barn, which are the finest in the township, are on the east bank of the creek, near the "Big Spring" and the "Lone Tree," a famous "watering place" for the red-skins more than half a century ago. Since coming to his present home in 1872, he has fed considerable stock, besides being constantly engaged in buying and shipping. He is a strong republican.

Joshua Galloway, farmer, Wellington, was born July 16, 1819, in Union county, Ohio, and was raised near Lebanon in that state. His parents were natives of Pennsylvania. His father died when he was three years old. He received a very limited education, and at the age of thirteen went to work at tanning and dressing leather, where he remained until he was eighteen. For the next three years he worked on a farm in Warren county, Ohio, and then learned the blacksmith's trade, became a good workman, and followed the business steadily for some years. He has also engaged in other mechanical pursuits, and farming, previous to coming to this county in 1859. He first settled in Prairie Green township, on section 4, where he remained eight years. In 1865 he bought the farm of 160 acres which he now owns, and moved on it in 1868, where he has since remained. He was married in Ohio, August 5, 1850, to Sarah J. Martin. The first nine years of their married life they spent in Indiana, and then came to Iroquois county as before stated. They have four children: Mary A., born May 28, 1854; J. J. Haynes, born January 26, 1856; H. Xenophon, born May 15, 1858, and Lorinda P. A., born December 12, 1860. As a public officer Mr. Galloway has always been honest, and has faith-

fully discharged the duties of his offices. He was commissioner of highways in Prairie Green for three years. In Lovejoy he has served as school trustee, has been collector two years, and when his present term expires will have served as justice of the peace nine years. His fine home and farm, about midway between Wellington and Hoopeston, is the result of a long life of unceasing industry and practical economy. Here he expects to spend the declining years of his life.

Abram C. Bowlby, cordwainer, Wellington, was born January 17, 1844, in Washington, Warren county, New Jersey. His father followed boating on the Morris canal, and died when Abram was ten years old. His mother, whose maiden name was Euphema Smith, still lives with an only daughter in New Jersey. His youth was spent mainly in New Jersey. In 1862 he went south and worked for the government at Fortress Monroe, and afterward he drove team for Uncle Sam at Washington, District of Columbia. His mother opposed his desire to enlist in the army. He left home and enlisted at Scranton, Pennsylvania, November 3, 1863, in Capt. J. C. Paine's detachment of United States Signal Corps for three years. After his enlistment his mother wrote him to be a good soldier and do his duty. August 15, 1865, he was honorably discharged at Georgetown, District of Columbia. He came to Ohio in 1865. He was married, August 16, 1866, to Mary, daughter of W. K. and Caroline Williamson. They have had five children: Euphema, Edna and William Bartley, who are living; and two who are dead, Augustus and Jennie Maud. Mr. Bowlby came to Vermilion county in 1873, where he lived two years, and then settled in Wellington. In the fall of 1875 he lost nearly all of his household goods in the fire that destroyed Weston's drug store. This was a great misfortune to him, coming as it did in the midst of hard times. He at once went to work to repair his losses, and by unceasing industry he has secured a home for his family in the thriving town of Wellington, where he is now having a prosperous trade.

Joseph Williams, farmer and stock-raiser, Wellington, was born in Harrison county, Ohio, May 27, 1839. His parents were Nathan and Sarah (Hoopes) Williams, the latter still living at Hoopeston. When two years old his father died. He started out in the world to "do for himself" at the age of fourteen. He hired out to a farmer for eight months, at \$6 per month, and placed the money at interest. He was engaged in working on a farm near his old home until the spring of 1858, when he came to Prairie Green township, where he farmed in partnership with his brother. He was principally engaged in breaking prairie here for two or three seasons. He remained in partnership with his brother until about 1863. He then bought 160 acres near



Kendal Shankland, but sold out and came to Lovejoy, where he has lived since 1866, except one winter spent on the farm of Mr. William Adsit, during which time he fed 230 head of cattle for Mr. Adsit. He was married April 6, 1864, to Mary J. Adsit, daughter of William Adsit, the largest land-owner in the township. He has four boys: William A., born February 12, 1865; Thomas N., born January 14, 1867; John B., born April 26, 1869; and Frank O., born December 1, 1875. Mr. Williams' farm lies in sections 21 and 22, and embraces 640 acres, of which his wife owns a quarter-section. He has built about twelve miles of post-and-board fence, besides improving by setting hedges and trees. His farm is well adapted to stock-raising, which is his principal business.

John S. Bradford, farmer, Wellington, was the first justice of the peace of Lovejoy township. He was born in Muskingum county, Ohio, August 23, 1830. His parents came from Virginia. His mother's father was a second cousin to General Winfield Scott. Mr. Bradford's father still lives in Grant county, Indiana, in his eighty-first year. At the age of twenty-three Mr. Bradford came with his parents to Indiana, where he followed the blacksmith's trade until he had to quit on account of his poor health. He came to Lovejoy township in 1865, and in the spring of 1866, settled on the farm he now owns and occupies near the town of Wellington. He has brought his land into a high state of cultivation. Mr. Bradford early began to plant trees to protect his home from the sweeping winds of winter, and now he is almost surrounded by orchard and groves. He has been married twice. By his first marriage, in 1855, he has two children: J. L. and Mollie C. J. L. has been in the Wisconsin pineries, hewing his own way in the world, but was recently called home on account of his father's failing health. Mollie C., an intelligent young lady, has had good success as a teacher. Mr. Bradford was married to his present wife, Huldah Baldwin, February 6, 1863. Her parents came from North Carolina. They have one child, named Lucy E. by this last marriage. Mr. Bradford had two brothers in the 57th Ind. reg., one a captain; both died of disease contracted in the service. He has held the office of town collector for two terms. His political faith is that of stalwart republicanism.

William Scott, farmer, Wellington, was born in Lawrence county, Ohio, November 22, 1827. His parents, John and Martha (Templeton) Scott, moved to Shelby county, Indiana, about 1834, and were among the first settlers of the county. Mr. John Scott was in the war of 1812. In 1853 the subject of this sketch came to Illinois with A. J. Endsley, and together they bought of Joseph Heffner the "Red Pump" farm, containing 400 acres. Mr. Scott was married, in 1856, to Martha A.

Rothgeb, daughter of George Rothgeb, an old settler of Milford township. They have four children: Carlile, Olive, Winfield and Anna, all living. After his marriage Mr. Scott settled a short distance south of his present home. In 1873 he bought Endsley's interest in the farm, moved his house up to the Red Pump, where he still lives. Mr. Scott is a member of the A. F. and A. M., Milford Lodge, No. 168, and also of Gay Creek Grange. He now owns 456 acres, valued at \$35 per acre.

Joseph Galloway, farmer and stock-raiser, Wellington, is a native of Fountain county, Indiana, and was born October 19, 1840. His parents, Samuel and Prudence Galloway, had eight children, seven of whom are yet living. They moved to Springfield, Ohio, when Joseph was quite young; after two years came back to Fountain county, and removed from there to Warren county, Indiana, where they still live, near the close of a happy life. Joseph received a common-school education in Warren county, Indiana. He enlisted in September, 1861, in the 33d Ind. Vol., where he served three years, then reënlisted in the same regiment as a veteran. He was at the battle of Wild Cat, Kentucky. He was captured by the rebels, March 5, 1863, at Spring Hill, Tennessee, and sent to Libby prison. He was in prison one month, then let out on parole, and in July, 1863, he was exchanged. When his regiment was reorganized he was in the 20th Army Corps, under the command of Gen. Hooker. He was in the charge at Resaca, also participated in the battles of Dallas Woods, Kenesaw Mountain, New Hope Church and Peach Tree creek. He was in the march to the sea, and took part in the battle of Bentonville, North Carolina, and other skirmishes on their victorious march through Richmond into Washington, where he was at the general review. He was discharged June 23, 1865, and has been for many years a resident of this township. Mr. Galloway was married to Louisa Haines, March 28, 1867. Ella M., Wilbert U., Hettie S., Maggie E. and David A., are the names of his children by his first wife. He was married again to Rebecca Doan, February 28, 1877, and has one child by this union, named Johnny. Mr. Galloway now owns a well improved farm in the northeast part of the township, which he has obtained mostly by his own labor. He has been elected to the offices of town clerk, assessor, collector and school trustee. He is an uncompromising republican.

J. D. Calhoun, minister of the Methodist Episcopal church, Wellington, was born in Blaine, Perry county, Pennsylvania, November 17, 1850. He was the son of John M. and Catharine (Kiner) Calhoun. His father was a carpenter, who died when the subject of our sketch was eight years old. He then moved with his mother to Geneseo, Henry county, Illinois, where she still resides with her second husband



John L. Hamilton



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J. B. Terpenning. Mr. Calhoun attended school at Farm Ridge, La Salle county, Illinois. He taught school two years and in September, 1873, he entered the Methodist Episcopal conference. He labored for the first year at Eldridgeville, in Ford county; he was three years at Iroquois in this county, and will complete his third year at Wellington in September, 1880. He is a member of the Masonic and Odd-Fellow lodges at Iroquois, and is a republican in politics. He was married, March 25, 1873, to Vina J. Robinson, of Geneseo, Illinois. They are the parents of three children: William S., Kate E. and Florence G., all living. Mrs. Calhoun's parents were William L. and Catharine Robinson. Mr. Calhoun is respected by all who know him. Of him it may be said, "He has no enemy." He is an earnest worker in his Master's vineyard. He aided in building the church at Iroquois, one of the finest in the county, and since he has had charge of Wellington circuit the church edifice here has grown up, and the societies at the different appointments have prospered under his care.

Matthias Meeker (deceased), was born in Essex county, New York. His parents were natives of New York, of English descent. When about twelve years of age he came with his parents to New Jersey, and finally removed with them to Hamilton county, Ohio. Young Meeker went to Cincinnati, and was engaged in the yards there building steamboats. He followed the trade also in the yards at Louisville, and New Albany, Indiana. It was during his stay at New Albany that he became acquainted with Elizabeth Allstott, of German descent, who was born in Washington county, Indiana. Miss Allstott became Mr. Meeker's wife in October, 1833. They lived in New Albany, Indiana, twenty-two years. All this time Mr. Meeker was busy at his trade in the yards, or on boats that ran on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers. For seven years he was with one captain. In 1855 he traded his property in New Albany for a farm of 200 acres near Corydon, Indiana, and began farming, but still clung to the river in the winter. In the financial crisis of 1857 he lost all his property. He removed, first to Jasper county and then to Clark county, Illinois, in 1860, where he staid four years, then he came to Indiana and lived mainly in Vermilion county, in that state, until the spring of 1867. He came to Iroquois county in 1867, and settled, first in Fountain Creek township, then came to their present home in the spring of 1873. Here Mr. Meeker died April 27, 1876. He was the father of ten children, named as follows: Margaret J., William, Julia, Laura, Halsey, Thomas, Charley, Amos, Joshua and Mollie. Mr. and Mrs. Meeker had three sons and three sons-in-law in the Union army. Their son, William, was in the battle of Belmont, and died of sickness soon after.

Halsey and Thomas were in the 11th Missouri. They were mere boys when they enlisted,—were at the siege of Vicksburg and in the march to the sea. Both reenlisted as veterans. One of the sons-in-law was killed in battle. Mrs. Meeker willingly let her boys go from home to defend their country, and certainly no one more richly deserves a pension than she, for her devotion to the Union.

William M. Miskimmen (deceased), and Emma Miskimmen, his wife, were born and raised in Ohio. Mr. Miskimmen was born in Wheeling township, Guernsey county, December 21, 1827, and Mrs. Miskimmen was born May 3, 1828, in Coshocton county. They were married in Ohio, March 11, 1850. Mr. Miskimmen was a merchant in Ohio. He came to Henry county, Illinois, and was for some time engaged in buying and selling stock. In 1868 he removed to Lovejoy township, and settled on his farm adjoining John Greer's on the west. Mr. Miskimmen's health was very poor, and on February 17, 1872, he died of consumption. They have two children living: Richard T., who was born December 6, 1851, and who married Celia Anderson, January 1, 1878; also Nannie R., born September 17, 1855, wife of B. F. Shankland, of Watseka.

J. W. Clements, farmer, Wellington, was born October 29, 1841, in Athens county, Ohio. His parents were John and Sarah A. (Thompson) Clements, natives of Ohio and Connecticut. His youth was spent on his father's farm in Ohio until August 23, 1862, when he enlisted in the 92d Ohio Vol. for three years. He followed the fortunes of his regiment through the war, marched with the boys to the sea, was in the battle of Bentonville, and at Washington when the grand review took place, although unable to march with his regiment on that occasion. He was discharged in June, 1865, and returned to Ohio, where he remained awhile, then spent one winter in Indiana, and came to this township in May, 1867. He began farming on the large farm of William Adsit, and remained here until 1873, in the spring, when he removed to his fine farm of 320 acres, in sections 23 and 26, in this township, where he has since resided. He was married, October 15, 1868, to Julia A., daughter of William Adsit, of Delaware county, Indiana, who at one time owned 1,760 acres in this township; but he is now dividing his land among his children, having recently deeded 320 acres to Mr. Clements' wife. Mr. Clements is the father of four children: Lucy E., Leroy, Thomas T., and Elizabeth M. There is a step-son named Daniel. Mr. Clements is one of the solid men of Lovejoy, and expects to make this his permanent home.

William Wilson (deceased), was a native of Ohio. He was married to Amanda Pearson, in Ohio, about March 6, 1826. Five or six years



after marriage they came to Warren county, Indiana. Attica was then only a small village. Mr. Wilson built a house in the woods on the 80 acres he had bought, and by industry acquired 80 acres more. The family lived here for about seven years, and then sold out and bought a prairie farm of 200 acres, nine miles northwest of Williamsport. Mr. Wilson lived on this farm up to the time of his death, which occurred November 1, 1871. By his good management he had become the owner of 320 acres, near Sheldon, in this county. Mrs. Wilson, after her husband's death, bought 80 acres in section 35, in this township, and removed here with her two sons, James and Asa, in March, 1875. She will be seventy-three years old March 15, 1880. Both she and her husband were members of the New Light church, in Warren county, Indiana, thirty-five years ago. She is the mother of eleven children, whose names follow: Margaret, Cynthia, Emily, Nancy, Mary, Sarah C., James, Asa, John, Amanda and William. John enlisted in the 86th Ind. reg., in the fall of 1864. He was out only three months, when he sickened and died. James, who lives with his mother, is an energetic, wide-awake farmer, and was born in Warren county, Indiana, July 6, 1849. He devotes his attention mainly to the raising of corn, for which purpose he rents considerable land, besides managing his mother's farm.

A. J. Hall, farmer and stock-dealer, Wellington, is a son of D. A. and Mary M. (Lemon) Hall, and was born August 24, 1852, while his parents were visiting at Amboy, Douglas county, Illinois. Their residence was at Newport, Indiana. In March, 1862, the family removed to Fairmount, Vermilion county, Illinois, where Mr. Hall engaged in the grain trade. While here the subject of this sketch aided his father by driving the horses to the "power," when shelling corn. Two years after this his parents moved to Chicago. His father at once entered the live-stock commission business, which he has followed ever since, and in which he has been eminently successful. Young Mr. Hall attended the public schools in Chicago, and was one year at Bryant & Stratton's Commercial College in that city. In 1867 he was employed by the live-stock commission firm of Conover & Hall, of which his father is a member, as book-keeper, in which position he served three years, and was for four years more employed by the same firm in the yards. In the spring of 1874 he came to Lovejoy township to manage his father's farm in section 5, containing 655 acres, where he has since resided. He is now engaged in feeding cattle and buying and shipping stock. His previous seven-years experience in the Union Stock-yards has admirably fitted him for this business. January 22, 1876, he was married to Sarah A., daughter of

J. B. Wilson, of this township. The young couple have a pleasant, happy home, and start prosperously out on life's journey in the rosy morn of wedded life. Mr. Hall is a republican. He belongs to the Blue Lodge of Masons, and of the chapter in Hoopeston.

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## PRAIRIE GREEN TOWNSHIP.

This township occupies the southeastern corner of Iroquois county, and embraces all of T. 24, R. 11 W.; also a narrow strip in R. 10 on the east, containing six fractional sections. The township is all prairie; its surface gently undulating, except in the southeast, where it is high and rolling. The soil is very rich, and every foot within its boundaries is capable of being tilled with but very little artificial draining. Indian corn is king of products here, not much attention having been given to the production of wheat. The little republic of Prairie Green took its legal birth from the division of Crab Apple township in the winter of 1858. Kendall Shankland, Robert Finch, H. C. Smith and a few others were the leading spirits in obtaining its independence of Crab Apple. The first election was held in April following, at the house of Robert Finch on section 10, the ballot-box on this occasion being an old teapot, the lid of which was raised to deposit the votes. Nineteen votes were cast, all in favor of separation. Kendall Shankland was elected supervisor; H. C. Smith and Washington M. Pugh were elected justices of the peace; Robert Finch, assessor; A. B. Handy, town clerk, and William Sawyer, collector. K. Shankland served the people so well in the position given him that he has been repeatedly elected to the same office, so many times, in fact, that he forgets how many terms he has served. H. C. Smith also served three terms, and later F. Williamson has held that office. Besides those first elected, J. C. Pugh, J. H. Hobart, J. C. Shankland, H. J. Calkins, George Besse and John W. Hudson have served as justices. H. C. Smith, William I. Hobart, C. M. Harris and A. S. Shankland have held the office of town clerk. Robert Finch has been the principal collector, serving in that capacity for ten years. Lately J. W. Dixon has held that office. Politically, Prairie Green has always been republican, and in its early years was nearly unanimous. For a long time there were but one or two democrats in the township. In the dark days of the war for the Union the draft was avoided in this township by hiring substitutes to fill its small quota. This was done by K. Shankland and Robert Finch, who obtained the money on

their individual notes, and were afterward reimbursed by the township.

A quarter of a century ago the people who lived along the belts of timber, and the few pioneers who were brave enough to squat out on the prairie, thought that these prairie townships would never be completely settled. Deer were then numerous. The early settlers need never be out of venison. Wolves were numerous, and the few settlers who lived here then, would often mount a horse bareback, and indulge in the invigorating sport of chasing a wolf or running down a deer.

Robert Finch settled on a fine tract in the southeast part of the township in 1853. In this corner, also, settled Abner Mitchell, K. Shankland, R. Adsit and Pixley, about the same time, or soon after. Of the early settlers in this part of the township, three (Finch, Shankland and Mitchell) yet remain, still owning large tracts of land where they first settled. In the northwest corner we find, in 1853, on section 5: Dale Pierce, in the spring; and late in that year H. C. Smith, who still lives where he first pitched his tent. A few years afterward James A. Smith started a farm in the northeast corner. Here also David Smalley, in 1858, began to help his father improve what is now the Crowther farm. His part of the improving was "driving" fence-posts; and young David was very glad to return to his home, near Attica, Indiana, after a short experience. He returned subsequently, and now owns the best and largest farm in that part of the township.

In 1857 John Greer began to break the sod in the southwest corner, but did not reside here until some years after. Breaking sod in those days was a good business for the favored few who owned breaking-teams and a "breaker." The breaker was a large plow, cutting a furrow from twenty inches to two feet, designed for five or six yoke of oxen. The beam was mounted on trucks; the depth was regulated by a lever, and as the wheels in front held the plow in position it required no holding; but considerable skill in driving was necessary when starting the first furrow, often a half mile or more in length. The season for breaking began as soon as the grass had got a good start in the spring, and did not end until near the first of July. Such large farmers as Finch and Shankland commonly had one or more breaking teams running, and after doing their own work would break for their neighbors, charging from \$3 to \$4 per acre. The teams were allowed to feed on the natural grasses they were plowing under at morning, noon and night, commonly being "corralled" after dark to prevent straying. No one at this time



had any idea that prairie sod could be plowed with horses. This was one reason why the prairies did not settle more rapidly at first. As soon as it was discovered that two or three horses, with a ten or twelve-inch plow, could turn nearly as much sod as an ox team, the prairie was soon dotted with little shanties or neat cottages, and the era of real improvement set in.

From the organization of the township there has been a law restraining stock from running at large. This was quite an inducement to the poor settler to start a home in this township. He could take care of his own stock with but little expense; to fence against his neighbors' was very expensive.

The first road through the township was the old Attica road, which ran in a northwest direction toward Milford. Road-making in Prairie Green for twenty years was a miserable farce. The overseer would warn his men out with their teams and tools. On the day specified they would assemble, and with plow and scraper would raise the semblance of a grade here and there, which the judicious teamster would always avoid. The greater part of the day, however, would be spent in talking about the crops, discussing politics or telling stories,—the overseer often taking a prominent part in furnishing entertainment of this nature to his willing listeners. Mr. Pixley, who has before been mentioned, once when overseer turned his road-working force into his hay-field. They soon put Mr. Pixley's hay up, he promising to give them credit for road-work, and to do the work himself. At his leisure Mr. Pixley hauled a quantity of flax tow out to the line of road to be repaired, making, at least for the time, quite a formidable grade. But it all ended in smoke, for the annual prairie fire swept that way soon after, and left not a trace of Pixley's road behind. In the last few years, however, under the contract system, the roads all over the township have been graded and drained, and substantial culverts and bridges have been put in wherever needed.

No creek nor river traverses this township. The north fork of the Vermilion cuts off a little of the southeast corner. Good water for stock and household purposes is easily obtained by digging and boring from twenty to sixty feet. It was while digging a well on the farm of Mr. Greer, August 19, 1867, in section 30, that a very tragical event took place. The well had been dug to a depth of about twenty-seven feet, and partly walled up. No water having been found, the workman, Mr. Moore, a tenant of Mr. Greer's, was down in the well boring. He had just withdrawn the auger to clean it. Mr. Greer and Mrs. Moore were at the brink of the well looking

down, when suddenly Mr. Greer heard a noise similar to that of escaping steam from a locomotive. He knew at once that it was caused by gas escaping through the hole just bored, and called to Mr. Moore to ascend as quickly as possible. Mr. Moore had been standing erect; he now stooped over and reached for a cup that was on the bottom of the well, and instantly fell back dead. Mrs. Moore seeing her husband fall, and supposing that if he were extricated at once he might be saved, entreated Mr. Greer to go down and try to get him out. Mr. Greer began to descend; but before he got very far he saw the foolishness of risking his life where he could do no good, and ascended, mounted a horse, and galloped off to the nearest house to secure assistance. Arriving at his residence, he met his son Nelson, who had just got off a fleet horse. After hearing from his father what had happened, the young man mounted his horse, and almost flew to the rescue of Moore. Before Mr. Greer and two or three others could reach the spot young Greer had begun to descend into the fatal well. He had only gone down a few feet when his hold loosened, and he fell across the wall a few feet below a lifeless corpse. It seems that a fountain of carbonic acid gas had been tapped by the auger, which rapidly filled the well, even to overflowing. Shortly after the death of Mr. Greer's son, the news of the fatal accident spread, and the neighbors soon assembled to help extricate the bodies. It was difficult to do this. No one could approach the well and look into it without feeling the baneful influence of the deadly gas. The bodies were finally drawn out by means of an iron hook that was caught into their boots or shoes. This sad accident deprived Mrs. Moore of a husband, and took from Mr. Greer an only and beloved son.

Mill going in the early times was attended with much inconvenience. One of the early settlers, J. Crawford Pugh, a blacksmith, had a mill for grinding corn run by horse-power in the east part of the township, not far from Mr. Finch's. He conceived the idea of making a wheel for the wind to turn, so as to dispense with his horse-power. He erected his wheel, which was an immense affair, thirty or forty feet in diameter, on a framework of massive posts, the raising of which required all the men for miles around. The projector found the wind a very unsteady and uncertain power. It did the farmers some good, but financially it was a failure, and the mill has long since disappeared. This same J. C. Pugh kept a small stock of groceries, and in some manner his place acquired the curious name of "Goose Nibble."

There is now no cross-roads store, blacksmith's shop, post-office

nor town within the limits of Prairie Green : nor does any railroad cross its territory, yet the shadow of a railroad debt falls over the land. Prairie Green is mostly tributary to Wellington, a small town on the Chicago & Eastern Illinois railway about one mile and a half west, yet this township has some institutions that would do credit to much older and more favored communities. These institutions are due to the genius and enterprise of several unmarried young men in the northeast part of the town.

First, there is the Prairie Green Glee Club, under the leadership of R. G. Cowan, an institution of great merit and long standing, comprising nearly a dozen voices, all above mediocrity.

The Prairie Green Dramatic Troupe was organized in October, 1876, and contains twelve members who all rank high in histrionic talent. This company has played for various charitable and public purposes, and each time has received the highest encomiums of both public and press. The officers are : Stage manager, R. M. Denholm ; treasurer, H. W. Cowan ; secretary, E. J. Cody.

The Prairie Green Quadrille Band, an association organized in 1879, now numbers twelve instruments : Three first violins, two second violins, three German flutes, two flageolets, and two violoncellos. This orchestra has met with an enthusiastic reception at all performances where it has taken a part. Its leader is R. G. Cowan ; vice, H. Crowther ; treasurer, John Cowan ; secretary, R. M. Denholm.

The Round Top Silver Fife Band, as an organization, dates from October, 1879, and numbers twelve fifes, two drums and a triangle. The boys have made rapid progress under their able leader, and promise to be an interesting feature at future public and political gatherings. Leader, R. G. Cowan ; vice, H. W. Cowan ; treasurer, E. J. Cody ; secretary, R. M. Denholm.

The Trego Blue Ribbon Society was organized in the winter of 1878, under the lecturing of Mrs. Trego, and numbers over 200 members. It meets once every week. It maintains its interest unabated.

The schools of Prairie Green are in the front rank among the educational interests of the county. The township was organized into four school districts about the year 1858. Lamont and Prairie Green school-houses were built soon after. Round Top was not built for some years after these two, but has become more famous than all the others. It was so named on account of the roof which covered the building, having the appearance of being round at a distance, although the house was really an octagon in shape, and the roof



eight-sided. The foregoing institutions that have been named, all had their birth in and about old Round Top. There are now seven schools in the township, all well attended and under the charge of competent teachers.

The school fund of the township amounts to the handsome sum of nearly \$12,000.

While speaking of the institutions of Prairie Green we must not omit the broom factory of Robert Finch, of which his son Fremont is superintendent and working force. The low price of broom-corn for the last few years induced Mr. Finch to try manufacturing. Out of his crop of 1879 he will make about 350 dozen-brooms. The use of tools coming nearly as handy to Fremont Finch as the use of his hands, he made his own broom machine, learned the trade in a few days, and is now an expert broom-maker.

The religious history of Prairie Green is perhaps similar to that of all other newly settled communities. A Methodist class was formed at Abner Mitchell's early in 1858. There was preaching around at houses, and after the school-houses were built meetings were held in them. Nearly every winter revivals of great interest would take place in these school-houses. Some of these first Methodist preachers did not turn out very well, however. The class at Mitchell's died out in a few years.

There is a small society of the United Brethren at Willow Brook school-house, and a prosperous Methodist class at Maple Grove (formerly Round Top) school-house. This is under the ministration of Rev. J. D. Calhoun, of Wellington circuit. There is a splendid Sunday school connected with this society. J. W. Dixon has been superintendent since its permanent organization in April, 1878, and M. Garrison, secretary. The greatest interest is kept up at all seasons of the year, and the school is well supported by regular weekly contributions. The average attendance is about seventy-five.

Christian chapel is the only church edifice in the township. It stands on section 12, and was built a few years ago at a cost of about \$1,000. J. J. Robb, D. Smalley, B. P. Cowan and J. B. Ferrand gave liberally to aid in its construction. Its size is 30×40, and it is a neat and substantial structure, and is owned by the Christian society of the neighborhood, some of the members living in Indiana.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

F. Williamson, farmer, Wellington, was born in this county, in what is now Stockland township, September 6, 1843. He is the son of Bethel P. and Margaret (Williams) Williamson. His father was a

native of Ohio, and his mother of Indiana. His grandfather was the first settler of Stockland township. Mr. Williamson spent his early life on his father's farm in Stockland township. In August, 1862, he enlisted in the 76th Ill. reg. for three years. He took part in the siege of Vicksburg, and participated in the battles of Jackson, Mississippi, Blakeley and Mobile. One of the hottest engagements he was ever in was at Canton and Jackson cross-roads, where the 76th lost 117 men in one hour. In this engagement he was slightly wounded in the right breast. During his three-years experience in the army he was in the states of Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, Florida, Arkansas, Missouri and Texas. He was married, March 21, 1869, to Dinah Slaughter. She was raised in Jefferson county, Indiana. Her parents are both living in Stockland township. After marriage Mr. Williamson rented awhile. He owns the farm of 80 acres where he now lives, having come here in the spring of 1872. He has four children living: Glennie E., William B., Leni Leoti and Harlan L.; there was one that died in infancy. Mr. Williamson has been collector of this township for two terms, and is now serving out his third term as supervisor. He is a republican.

James K. Williamson, farmer, Wellington, is the son of Bethel P. and Margaret (Williams) Williamson. His parents were the first settlers at Crab Apple Grove, in Stockland township. He was born in Stockland township, February 21, 1845. His youth was spent on his father's farm, until December, 1863, when he enlisted in the 76th Ill. Vol. He was with this regiment until July, 1865, and was then transferred at Galveston, Texas, to the 37th Ill. Vet. He was in several skirmishes through Mississippi, and was mustered out at Houston, Texas, May 18, 1866. After coming home in the fall of 1866, he entered the school at Onarga, where he remained four terms. He then began farming in Stockland township. He came to Prairie Green in 1872; here he rented a farm, then bought 80 acres, but did not keep it long, and in 1876 went to Iowa. While in Iowa he was married to Tinnie Walton, daughter of A. L. Walton, an old settler and respected citizen of Iowa. The marriage was consummated October 17, 1877. Since his marriage he has lived in Prairie Green, and has been engaged in farming. He now owns 80 acres. He has one child named J. Harley, who was born April 2, 1879. Mrs. Williamson is a member of the Christian church at Eden, Iowa. Mr. Williamson has served four terms as assessor of this township. In politics he is a republican.

A. J. Decker, farmer, Wellington, was born about 1844, in Page county, Virginia, and is the son of Chrysley and Mary Decker, both of whom are now living near. They were natives of Virginia, and

came to Milford township about 1849. Old Mr. Decker rented land in the vicinity of Milford until about the year 1865. He then removed to this township. In August, 1862, the subject of this sketch enlisted in the 113th Ill. Vol. He was in the battles on the Yazoo, at Memphis, and Island No. 10. He was then laid up with the measles, and sent to the hospital at Memphis. He rejoined his command before he was really well, and taking cold was sick for nine months. All this time he staid with his command, but at last, being unable to walk, he was discharged and sent home, in August, 1863. At home Mr. Decker soon regained his strength, but as he had enlisted with a view to seeing the end of the contest, he now reënlisted at Springfield, Illinois, in the same regiment, and finally joined his old comrades at Memphis in February, 1864. He took part in the battle of Holly Springs, and in June, 1864, was captured by the rebels at Ripley, Mississippi. He was sent to Andersonville, and for ten months suffered all of the tortures that the wretch Wirz knew so well how to inflict. When he entered the prison-pen he weighed 150 pounds, and in ten months after only sixty-three. While here he saw Jeff Davis, and says he heard him threaten to hang Wirz if the prisoners were not treated better. Mr. Decker was so reduced that he could not walk for three months after he had been released. He was mustered out at Quincy, in July, 1865. He returned to his parents, where he remained until he was married. This occurred September 6, 1868, his bride being Adiline Stanton. She was the daughter of James and Martha Stanton, natives of Virginia, who settled near Crawfordsville, Indiana, where she was born. Her mother is still living in this township with her children. The children of Mr. Decker are named as follows: Eva, born June 10, 1869; Alice, born February 21, 1872; and William, born August 19, 1878. Mr. Decker is an experienced thresher, and owns a steam threshing machine. He is a republican. His farm consists of 120 acres in section 7, worth about \$4,000.

Robert Finch, Ambia, Indiana, was born at Lawrenceburg, Indiana, September 25, 1819. His parents were Jubal and Filena (Earl) Finch, of English descent. His father was a practicing physician, and died when the subject of this sketch was quite young. His mother married again; lived awhile at Vevay, and came to Fountain county, Indiana, in 1832. He staid with his step-father until he was about sixteen years of age, and then, with his mother's consent, he ran away to his grandfather's, near Noblesville, Hamilton county, Indiana. He remained here about one year and then returned home. At the age of nineteen he went to Cincinnati, intending to go into business with a cousin there, but did not do so, and went to his uncle's, Judge Finch,



at Franklin, Indiana, where he attended a Baptist school for six months. He then taught school one term in the woods near here, in an old-fashioned log school-house, and acquired considerable reputation as a school teacher. While at Franklin he and William S. Holman, who has since had a seat in congress, started the first debating society in Franklin. From Franklin he went to Crawfordsville, where he attended two terms at Wabash College, and then went home, teaching school in the vicinity until 1845. At this time he came from Fountain to Warren county, and bought a farm on the Grand Prairie, three miles from West Lebanon. In 1847 he married Sarah A. Crawford, daughter of Dr. Crawford, who lived near Attica. He taught school awhile, and then moved into his own cabin on his farm, where he lived until 1853. He sold this farm of 120 acres for \$1,800. He invested a larger part of this money in government land, entering all of section 26 and half of section 25 in Prairie Green township, in this county. He built a shanty on the new farm and moved into it. This was in the spring of 1853. The shanty was afterward used for a stable. His present residence is an old-style family mansion, pleasantly situated in the midst of his fertile acres. Mr. Finch is the father of eleven children, and has six grandchildren. His children are named as follows: Edwin, John, Robert, Cyrus, Theodore, Fremont, Geneva, Lizzie, Fred-eric, Leon and Leonora, all of whom are living. Such has been the confidence of the people in Mr. Finch's ability and honesty that he has always held office since the organization of the township. He is a republican in politics.

H. C. Smith, farmer, Wellington, was born June 13, 1829. His parents were Eli and Mary Smith, of the Society of Friends. His father was an industrious shoemaker. The subject of this sketch was the youngest of a family of seven. At the age of three his parents died. An aunt took care of him until he was fourteen years old. He lived with his sister awhile and then went to his brother and staid four years. While living here he learned the shoemaker's trade of his brother. He had but little opportunity to obtain an education from the time that he was old enough to work. In 1846 he went to Louisiana, and spent the winter in chopping cordwood. He returned to Ohio and worked awhile on a farm, and in 1848 he worked at digging iron ore at Ironton, Ohio. He was also engaged for awhile on a flat-boat that carried iron ore from Ironton to Cincinnati. While on the river he became an expert swimmer, and by reason of this, has saved three men from drowning. He was married, December 25, 1849, to Harriet Moreland. He came with his young wife to Portland, Fountain county, Indiana, in April, 1851. After many discouragements he

at last managed to save fourteen dollars, and made the first payment on the 40 acres of land where he now resides. He moved here in December, 1853. He went to work wherever work could be had, and his children grew up about him to help, and at last the home was paid for. He was elected town clerk of Crab Apple township one term, and served as justice of the peace from the organization of this township, for fourteen years. He was also supervisor for three terms, and assessor three terms. Mr. Smith has six children: Arabella, Mary E., Martha E., Lorena E., Morean and Eli Tad. Three of the oldest are married, and all live in this county. He is a member of the Milford Lodge of Masons, No. 168, also a member of Prairie Green Grange, No. 1166. He is a republican.

Kendall Shankland, farmer, Hoopeston, was born July 1, 1825, at Eaton, Ohio. His parents were Kentuckians, and were among the first settlers of Ohio, and also of Warren county, Indiana, where they came when Kendall was about four years of age. The town of West Lebanon sprang up near where his parents settled, and here the subject of this sketch grew up to manhood. His education was rather limited. He was married in Boone county, Indiana, to Amanda Harris, a native of Marion county, Indiana, on February 14, 1848. They lived on a farm in Warren county, Indiana, near West Lebanon, until they moved to this township in 1854. Mr. Shankland was among the first residents of Prairie Green. He now owns 840 acres of land in this township, besides the old farm in Warren county. He is the father of five children: Ben. F., now at Watseka, in the office of the county clerk as deputy; George, Florence, David and Laura. Mr. Shankland took an active part in organizing the township of Prairie Green, and has since been prominently connected with public affairs in the township and county. He has been supervisor in all for eighteen years, and was the first one to hold that office in the township. He has been a republican from the formation of that party. Mr. Shankland has also held the office of school trustee. His grove and orchard, crowning the brow of one of the highest knolls in the township, can be seen for miles in any direction.

L. E. Barritt, farmer, Wellington, was born March 28, 1836, in Westville, Champaign county, Ohio. His parents were Lemuel and Matilda (Pearce) Barritt. They left Ohio and settled in Madison county, Indiana, about 1839, and remained in that county until 1844, when they came to Warren county, Indiana, and from there to Iroquois county, Illinois, in 1854, and settled in Stockland township. They both died in this county. He remained with his parents up to the age of twenty-two. On March 18, 1858, he was married to Mary

J. Dawson, daughter of C. W. and Mary J. Dawson, of Milford township. Mrs. Barritt died in the same year, December 2, and Mr. Barritt returned to his mother's home in Stockland township, his father having died the year before. He was married again, September 4, 1859, to Lavina J. Decker, who was born June 28, 1841. Her parents were old residents of Milford township, having come from Virginia more than thirty years ago. By this last marriage Mr. Barritt has three children living: Cornelia, born November 17, 1860; Andrew L., born September 7, 1864; and Lillie M., born August 14, 1866. Jasper S. was born July 28, 1862, and died December 17, 1877. Mr. Barritt and his first wife were members of the United Brethren church. He and his present wife now belong to the Methodists. He has 100 acres, which he values at \$4,000. He is a republican, but no office seeker.

Jasper N. Barritt is one of the wide-awake, progressive farmers of Prairie Green. His comfortable home nestles in the midst of the grove and orchard which his own hands have planted. His farm is in section 8, and consists of 180 acres, valued at \$35 per acre. He was born February 4, 1841, in Madison county, Indiana. He is the son of Lemuel and Matilda (Pearce) Barritt, who came from Ohio and settled first in Madison county, Indiana, and afterward in Warren county, Indiana, near Pine village. In 1854 the family moved to Stockland township and settled four miles east of Milford. They owned a farm at that place and also the land where Jasper now lives. He staid with his parents, working on the farm, until August 9, 1862, when he enlisted in the 76th Ill. Vol. He was at the siege of Vicksburg, and after the fall of that city was in the battle at Jackson and in a skirmish at Benton, Mississippi. He was mustered out at Galveston, and discharged at Chicago, August 4, 1865. He was married, September 17, 1865, to Matilda Stephenson. Her parents, Aaron and Elizabeth Stephenson, are both living in Warren county, Indiana, having been married fifty-eight years. They came from Ohio, and were the first settlers of Warren county, Indiana. Mr. Barritt has a family of four lovely daughters and one boy. Their names and dates of birth are as follows: Estella, August 14, 1866; Mary A., June 22, 1868; Lura L., February 21, 1871; Loda, January 9, 1873, and Ira J., November 6, 1878. He rented a farm near Milford for two years after marriage, but in 1868 he moved to the place where he now resides. Mrs. Barritt is a Methodist. His political views are republican.

James B. Handy (deceased), farmer, Hoopeston, was born on Union Prairie, in Illinois, west of Terre Haute, July 11, 1822, and died in March, 1863. His parents were natives of New York. When he



was about twelve years old he went with his parents to Newtown, Fountain county, Indiana. They bought a farm there. Young Handy lived with his parents until 1842. He was married to Keziah Poyner, September 23, 1842. He bought a farm and resided in Fountain county until April, 1858, when he came to the neighborhood where his family now live. He bought land here in 1859 and moved to the farm in the spring of 1861. In 1862 his oldest son, Thomas P., enlisted in the 76th Ill. Vol., and died the same year of measles, at Columbus, Kentucky. Mr. Handy brought the body home for burial. The other children are James A., who married Cornelia Koontz; Mary A., wife of J. M. Houston; Loretta J., wife of Theodore Finch; Emma T., wife of Charles Beebee; and John, unmarried, who lives at home with his mother. Mr. Handy enjoyed the confidence of his fellow citizens. He was the first town clerk of the township, and also school treasurer. He was a member of the M. E. church, as also was Mrs. Handy. She now belongs to the United Brethren church.

N. H. Endsley, farmer, Ambia, Indiana, was born in Fountain county, Indiana, February 15, 1842. His parents were Hugh and Maria (Osborne) Endsley. His mother died when he was quite young, and after her death he lived with an aunt in Harrison county, Missouri, up to the age of sixteen. He started for Pike's Peak in the year 1858, but met so many returning that he came back, and in November, 1858, came to Vermilion county, Illinois. He next came to Iroquois county and worked awhile for Endsley & Scott, at the "Red Pump," in Lovejoy township. In August, 1861, he enlisted from Fountain county, Indiana, in Harris' Light Cavalry, afterward known as the 2d N. Y. With this famous regiment he was in all the hard-fought battles in which the army of the Potomac took a part, and was with Gen. Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley. He was wounded at Gettysburg, White's Ford, and at Hanover Court-house. Mr. Endsley served through the war, then returned to Vermilion county, and was shortly after married to Amanda Daniel, daughter of Eli Daniel, who settled on the round bottom above Danville, Illinois, when that village contained but three houses. Mr. and Mrs. Endsley are both members of the Maple Grove M. E. church. He is also a member of Prairie Green Grange No. 1166. He is the father of five children: May, David U., William A., Frank M. and John W.

Murray McGrew, farmer, Hoopeston, was born March 10, 1826, near Steubenville, Ohio. His parents, James and Mary (Pentecost) McGrew, both died when he was quite young. Being a poor orphan boy his education was neglected. His youth was spent in Harrison

county, Ohio. He was married to Ann Williams, a niece of Thomas Hoopes, of Hoopeston, March 27, 1851. He followed farming in Harrison county, Ohio, until 1864, then removed to Morgan county, Ohio, where he bought a small farm. He soon sold this and came to Vermilion county, Illinois. In the fall of 1865 he bought 80 acres in this township, where he built a shanty and commenced farming in the spring of 1866. He now values his land at \$35 per acre. He has four children living: William, Sarah W., John T. (in Nebraska) and Joseph. Elizabeth died, in 1865, of spotted fever. He is a republican. Mrs. McGrew belongs to the United Brethren church.

William Stanton owns 120 acres in section 7, where he lives. He has it well improved. His father, Edwin, was a native of Ohio, and his mother, Martha Peebles, of Virginia. They both came to Indiana at an early day and were married there. They were Quakers. Mr. Stanton was born in Montgomery county, Indiana, October 3, 1837. When he was quite small his father died, and as he grew up he had his mother and two sisters to provide for. He remained with his mother, following farming, until he was about twenty-seven years old. He came to Prairie Green to live about the year 1865. He was married, February 28, 1869, to Margaret Owens, a native of Warren county, Indiana. Her parents, George and Sarah Owens, were natives of Virginia and Ohio. Mr. and Mrs. Stanton met with a severe affliction in the death of their daughter, Lottie, which occurred October 26, 1879. She was born December 23, 1869. Their only living child now is Addie, who was born December 27, 1873.

William M. Moore, farmer, Wellington, was born September 10, 1826, in Washington county, Indiana. His parents settled in Tippecanoe county, Indiana, when William was quite young. He lived there up to 1848. He then bought land in Benton county, Indiana, and lived there until the spring of 1866. In 1866 he moved to his farm in this township, where he now owns half of section 20, one of the finest and best improved farms in the county. He was married, February 2, 1862, to Mahala Brown; they have four children, all living: Mary E., born November 26, 1862; Martha V., born December 25, 1864; Ella M., born November 3, 1867; and Ida, born January 1, 1867. Mr. Moore is a good citizen and desires neither office nor notoriety.

John W. Hudson, farmer, Wellington, was born near the Yadkin river, in North Carolina, December 24, 1831. His parents were Peter and Elizabeth (Adinger) Hudson; the former was a native of South Carolina, and the latter of North Carolina. Mr. Hudson and his family are of a very mixed descent. His paternal grandfather was an Englishman, born in London. He came to America and settled near

Charleston, South Carolina. He was in the revolutionary war, and reached the age of one hundred and thirteen years. His paternal grandmother was Welsh, his maternal grandmother Scotch, and his maternal grandfather, who came to America to fight the English, was a Frenchman, born in Paris. This Frenchman settled in North Carolina, and was one of "Marion's men." Once during the revolution he was hung up by the tories, head downward, and was almost dead before he was discovered and released by his comrades. He took part in the war of 1812, and was killed in battle. When Mr. Hudson was about six years old he came with his parents to Montgomery county, Indiana, and from there to Tippecanoe county, where in a few years his parents died. He staid with a blacksmith for some time, learned the trade and the use of tools generally. In 1852 he went to California overland, and while there followed mining, teaming, farming and milling, mostly in Trinity county. He returned in 1856 by way of the Isthmus of Darien. He moved from Tippecanoe to Benton county, and then to Warren county, Indiana. In 1866, after a trip to Kansas, he came to the farm he now lives on, in this township. Mr. Hudson was in the 150th Ind. Vet., Hancock's corps, from February, 1865, until August, 1865. He was married while living in Tippecanoe county, Indiana, to Priscilla P. Chizum, who was born in Ross county, Ohio, March 13, 1823. Her parents settled on the Shawnee prairie, in Fountain county, about 1826. They were of Irish and Dutch descent. Mr. Hudson has one son living named Junior F., and also one daughter, whose full name is Rosa Aretta Civilla Florence. There is one dead, named Edward M. Mr. Hudson is a member of the Blue Lodge of Masons, and of the chapter at Hoopeston. He has given considerable time to the invention of corn-planting and corn-cultivating machinery. He obtained the second patent for a double corn-planter, being next to Brown, and also claims the third application in the patent office for a straddle row, riding corn-cultivator. He and his son have both obtained patents on check-row corn-planters, which will doubtless one day become valuable. Mr. Hudson has also applied for a patent on a "lock nut," an invention of great interest to all who use machinery. Mr. Hudson's farm of 160 acres lies in sections 17 and 20. He values it at \$35 per acre. Mr. Hudson is a justice of the peace. In politics he is a greenback republican.

Isaac N. Bishop, physician and farmer, Ambia, Indiana, was born in Richland county, Ohio, where he lived until twenty years of age. He then went to Chicago, where he entered the Chicago Medical School. Here, under the direction of Prof. Byford, he made rapid and permanent progress in his favorite study. While an undergraduate he was



appointed assistant surgeon of the 57th Ill. Vet. He was in the Atlanta campaign, and with Sherman's boys in the march to the sea. He was in the battles at Rome cross roads, Georgia, Black river, South Carolina, and Bentonville, North Carolina. He was mustered out at Chicago in July, 1865. He then finished his studies and graduated with honor, receiving his diploma in the spring of 1866. He began the practice of medicine at Salem, Ohio, where he remained about one year, then came to this township. He was married January 4, 1871, to Annie Mitchell, daughter of Abner Mitchell, one of the first settlers and best citizens of this township. They have two boys; Ernest, born February 27, 1874; and Donno, born August 27, 1877. Dr. Bishop's practice extended over a wide territory, embracing adjoining townships. He is now engaged in improving his farm of 160 acres, in section 35. When he has gained a competency here he expects to resume his practice. Dr. Bishop is a republican.

Samuel Hazel, farmer, Hoopeston, was born in Wayne county, Ohio, July 5, 1825. He is the son of Hugh and Ruth (Kearns) Hazel, who were early settlers of Wayne county. They came from Delaware. He lived with his parents up to the time of his marriage, which occurred November 9, 1847, his bride being Elizabeth Bishop, sister of Dr. Bishop, of this township. He lived in Ohio on several different farms for twenty years. In 1867 he came to the place he now occupies, "squatted" on the raw sod, soon after bought 200 acres, and now owns 440 acres, all of which is well cultivated and improved. In the year 1870 Mr. Hazel raised 1,000 bushels of flax-seed, which he delivered in Danville at \$2 per bushel. He has three children living. The first is John, who is married and living at Claypool, Indiana. He was a graduate of the Miami Medical College of Cincinnati, and has an extensive and successful practice where he resides. The second son, Samuel E., is married and lives in Vermilion county, Illinois, and a daughter named Talitha, wife of Henry Seaman, lives on an adjoining farm. The names of his children who have died are Alice, Edward and Cornelius. Mr. Hazel is a member of Plato Lodge, I.O.O.F., in Lorraine county, Ohio. In politics he is a democrat. His wife is a member of the United Brethren church.

Philip Swartz, farmer, Ambia, Benton county, Indiana, was born in Baden, Germany, May 1, 1825. His parents were Thomas and Salinah (Kos) Swartz, who lived and died in Germany. He came to this country in 1853, and for three years worked at the cabinet-maker's trade in Williamsburgh, New York. He then went to Chicago, and also visited several other cities in the northwest, working occasionally at his trade, and finally settled in Bloomington, where he lived several

years. He lived on a farm near that city a few years, and came from there to his present home in this township in 1868. He now owns 240 acres well improved. He was married, in 1855, to Mary A. Koable, a native of Germany. They have six living children: Charley, George, Frank, Caroline, Albert and William. Four are dead: John, Anna, Henry and John. Mrs. Swartz's parents are still living in Germany. Her father was in the last wars against the great Napoleon. Mr. Swartz received a common-school education. He and all his family belong to the German Catholic church. His political views are democratic.

A. W. Kirkwood, farmer, Wellington, was born in Grant county, Indiana, May 15, 1838. His parents were Thomas and Jane (McCormick) Kirkwood, natives of Pennsylvania and Ohio, who came to Indiana at a very early day. They were of Irish descent. Mr. Kirkwood's life was spent in his father's family up to the age of twenty-one. For two years after he worked on farms in the vicinity of his home. He enlisted in the 84th Ind. Vols. for three years, in August, 1862. He was in the Atlanta campaign, and then fought at the battles of Franklin and Nashville. He took part in many skirmishes in Tennessee and Alabama, and was mustered out at Nashville, in June, 1865. He came back to Delaware county, Indiana, and worked by the month, and also in the year 1867 farmed on his own account. In 1868 he came to Lovejoy township and began working for William Adsit, where he remained eighteen months. He was married, September 5, 1869, to Mary Slaughter, daughter of William and Isabel (McLain) Slaughter, both of whom are still living in Stockland township, in this county. In the spring of 1870 he settled on his present farm of 80 acres, in section 17, which he now values at \$2,500. Mr. Kirkwood had only a common-school education. He has been twice elected commissioner of highways, and is now treasurer of the board. He has four children: Charles N., born July 20, 1872; Laura J., born February 27, 1875; William M., born August 28, 1876, and Robert L., born May 28, 1878, also an infant, dead. Mr. Kirkwood is a member of Star Lodge, Hoopeston, No. 709, and of the chapter.

George H. Hedger, farmer, Wellington, was born October 9, 1852, in Oswego county, New York. His parents were also natives of New York. They came to DuPage county, Illinois, in 1854, where Mr. Hedger received a common-school education. His parents then removed to Iroquois county, Middleport township, in 1869, where his father owns a small farm. His mother died there January 3, 1879. He has one brother living in Wisconsin, named Hiram, and another named Thomas, in this county. Mr. Hedger is an industrious young farmer,

residing at present in this township. He is unmarried, and is a staunch republican.

Samuel Ebbert, farmer, Hoopeston, Vermilion county, son of Andrew E. and Mary Ebbert, was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, October 26, 1839. He moved with his parents to Grant county, Indiana, when he was nine years of age. He was early thrown on his own resources. By habits of industry and economy he soon obtained a start in the world. He bought his present farm of 80 acres in 1869, and began improving it. He has lived here ever since. He married Emily E. Bradford, of Grant county, Indiana, January 30, 1862. Her father was one of the oldest settlers of that county, and is still living. They have one child living: Edwin L., born March 10, 1863, and one dead. Mr. Ebbert enlisted in the 54th Ind. Vols., in October, 1862, for one year. He was with Sherman in the first attack on Vicksburg, and at the battle of Arkansas Post; he also aided in the memorable siege of Vicksburg, and took part in the battle at Jackson, Mississippi. From there he went to New Orleans. He was out with Gen. Banks' command to Opelousas, Louisiana, and returned to New Orleans, where he was discharged. He reached home December 25, 1863. Mr. and Mrs. Ebbert both belong to the M. E. church, at Wellington. He is a republican.

W. H. Elstob, farmer, Wellington, was born on the island of St. Helena, October 20, 1849. He is the son of George and Eliza (Coster) Elstob, natives of England. His father was a soldier in the British army; he held the office of sergeant. He was stationed at St. Helena for seven years, and died there. After the death of his father, which occurred about 1850, he went with his mother to London, England. He attended school there, but when about fifteen years of age he went to sea in a merchant vessel. He visited the West Indies, South America, and various ports on the Atlantic and Mediterranean. His mother still lives in London. In 1870 he went to Canada, then visited Chicago, and drifted into Prairie Green, where he has remained ever since. He owns 40 acres in section 21, where he has kept bachelor's hall for the last five years.

Orlando B. Rollins, farmer, Hoopeston, was born November 16, 1838, at Pembroke, New Hampshire. His parents were Ivory M. and Sarah M., natives of New Hampshire, of English descent. He was married, November 20, 1858, to Phebe C. Hansom, a New Hampshire girl. They came to Bureau county, Illinois, in 1862, remained there on a farm for about seven years, then removed to Rantoul, in Champaign county, and came from there to their present home in this township. They have three children living: Hattie M., Lettie



H. and George W. There is one dead, named Phelena. Their daughter Lettie has made, by herself, a patchwork quilt, containing about 12,000 pieces. It is very neatly put together, and is a wonderful piece of work for a little girl of twelve years. Mr. Rollins enlisted September 10, 1864, in the 146th Ill. Vol. for one year. Being a Yankee, Mr. Rollins has devoted considerable thought to the contrivance of new machines. He has invented a self-adjustable, check-row corn-planter, which works without wire or rope. He is also at work on a corn-husking machine, which he thinks will be a success. His check-row corn-planter has been patented.

Joseph Cowan, Wellington, farmer, was born in Salford, Lancashire county, England, June 31, 1836. He is the son of John and Hannah Cowan, of Scotch and English descent. When thirteen years of age he went to Tinwald, in Scotland, and served an apprenticeship of five years with a shoemaker. He then returned to Salford, and worked in a large dyeing establishment one year. He then came to America and settled in Kendall county, Illinois. He was married, November 20, 1856, to Isabella Allen, of Livingston county, Illinois. He followed farming in Kendall county until the winter of 1859-60, when he removed to Livingston county, and continued to farm up to the fall of 1864. Although a native of England, Mr. Cowan was an ardent republican, and believed in the vigorous prosecution of the war to put down the rebellion. He had told his political opponents that in case he were drafted, he would willingly leave home and faithfully perform his duty as a soldier. Following the draft, it was discovered that a John Cowan had been drafted, and as there was no John Cowan to answer to the call, his political enemies believed that the man drafted was Joseph Cowan, and supposed he would avail himself of the mistake in entering his name, and evade the service. Mr. Cowan, himself believing that he had been chosen, without a moment's hesitation reported for duty, and was placed in the 44th Ill. reg. He was in the battles of Spring Hill, Columbia, Franklin and Nashville. It was afterward discovered that one John Cowan, who had left the country, had been really drafted instead of Joseph. He was discharged in June, 1865, and resumed farming in Livingston county, until 1871, when he came to his present home in Prairie Green. He owns a well improved farm here of 80 acres, in section 2, valued at \$2,400, all of which he has gained by his own exertions. Mr. Cowan is a Freemason. He and his wife and two of their children are members of the Christian church. He is the father of eight children, named as follows: Jean B., John H., Andrew G., Mary E., Minnie G., Joseph H., Isabella and Benjamin. The last two are dead. Mr. Cowan has a par-

donable pride for his old English ancestors, whom he can trace back to the time of William the Conqueror.

David Smalley, farmer, Wellington, was born June 13, 1839. His parents were William and Sarah (Sargent) Smalley, who were married August 29, 1833, in Fountain county, Indiana, where they were living when the subject of this sketch was born. His youth was spent in Fountain and Warren counties, Indiana. He was married, October 3, 1860, to Martha Hickman. Her parents were Peter and Mary Hickman, from Delaware. They are still living in Warren county, Indiana. Mr. Smalley has seven children living: W. Clark, P. Clay, C. Burt; R. Ora and A. Dora, twins; M. Baxley and D. Arthur. Mr. Smalley came to the farm he now lives on, in section 1, in the spring of 1873. He has now 360 acres. When he came here there was nothing on the place, while now he has fine groves and a young orchard coming on. When he was a young man his father advised him to keep out of lawsuits and bad company. He has followed this advice, and to this may be attributed much of his success in life.

Robert M. Denholm was born in Portobello, near Edinburgh, Scotland, in the year 1851. He was educated at Dr. Bell's seminary, in Edinburgh, leaving school at the age of twelve years. He then served an apprenticeship of five years to the bookselling and stationer's business, in Edinburgh, and was also employed in book-keeping. In 1874 he came to America and settled in Prairie Green township, where he has been principally engaged in farming. For the last four years he has kept "bach," and has taken the lead in all the amusements of the young people of Prairie Green, being the life and center of the social and literary enterprises that have made the "Round Top" neighborhood famous throughout the county.

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## RIDGELAND TOWNSHIP.

This township occupies the western part of what was originally known as Onarga. At the annual meeting of the county board of supervisors, held September, 1878, a petition was presented, asking that a certain portion of the township of Onarga—described therein—be organized into a new township under the name of "Ridge." The committee to whom the subject was referred, recommended that the petition be granted; and at a subsequent meeting held in January, 1879, the report was adopted and the division made, the vote being twenty-two yeas and one nay. The official act is as follows: "All that territory of the township of Onarga lying west of a line

commencing at the northeast corner of the southeast quarter of section 11, town 26, range 10 east of the 3d principal meridian; running thence south to the southeast corner of section 26 of said town and range; thence west to the northeast corner of the northwest quarter of section 35 of said town and range; thence south to the southeast corner of lot one in the northwest quarter of section 2, town 25, range 10, shall be and constitute the town of "Ridge." At the annual meeting held in September, 1879, it was officially determined that "all territory east of the following line, commencing at the center of Sec. 35, T. 26, R. 10 E.; thence running due north on the half-section line to south line of Douglas township, which territory now forms a part of the town of Ridgeland, be and the same is hereby attached to the town of Onarga." The first township election was held in the Ridgeville school-house, on the first Tuesday of April, 1879. I. N. Wilson, A. H. Whiteside and J. C. Shear acted as judges of election. The following were elected the first officers of the township: Supervisor, A. R. Butler; town clerk, F. R. Jameson; assessor, D. B. Moffat; collector, William H. H. Dinning; commissioner of highways, H. B. Booth; constables, Robert Couch, J. B. Miller; justice of the peaces, B. H. Skeels, J. M. Mears. At this meeting the name of the township was changed from "Ridge" to "Ridgeland," as there is already a town of same name in Jackson county. This township was originally all prairie, there being but one tree standing in it. At present, however, the aspect of the country is greatly changed in consequence of the numerous orchards and groves of willow and other trees that have been planted on nearly every farm. The newcomer can hardly realize the great change that has taken place in the appearance of this vast prairie under the transforming hand of civilization. The surface of the township is generally level, in some portions it would seem too much so. This level, however, is considerably relieved by ridges, generally extending in an easterly and westerly direction, and while nowhere is the surface abruptly broken, yet there are sufficient inclinations to admit of easy and permanent drainage. Spring creek rising in Ford county on the west, enters this township near its southwest corner, and flowing irregularly in a northeasterly course nearly to the center, bends its course southeasterly, leaving the town near the corner of section 35. This is the only flowing stream in the township. But little do the people care for that. Nature has provided an inexhaustible supply of the most wholesome water. The artesian wells that are found wherever needed, bring unfailing streams of health and happiness to every household. That fearful



scourge of the west, as well as of the east,—chills and fever,—is unknown in this town. The artesian water, charged with strong medicinal qualities of nature's own compounding, stands like a "flaming sword" to protect the citizen from his worst foe, sickness. No more healthful region can be found. One gentleman declared that he had been entirely cured of a troublesome rheumatic affection solely through its use. Numerous artesian springs are found in the western part of the town, and are truly remarkable,—a feature that in many localities would certainly be turned to profitable account. This extreme healthfulness of the country, together with the unsurpassed fertility of the soil, adapted as it is to the growth of every vegetable product, is the principal reason assigned why so many intelligent people have been content to make this section of the county their home. For several years past, crops have failed in consequence of excessive moisture, the surface being too level to permit of a ready natural disposal of the surplus water. But the gradual extension of a general system of ditches, and increased attention to drainage by means of drain-tile, are perceptibly removing this great obstacle to successful farming.

#### EARLY SETTLEMENTS.

Although this township so recently formed a part of Onarga, yet we propose to trace back its history to those who first settled its fertile lands. Among the first (if not the first to locate within its present limits), was John Northrup, on Sec. 35, T. 26, R. 10 E. He built the first mill and made the first brick in the township. He was also one of the builders of the old court-house at Middleport.

The first mill is thus described: Some "hand-power" mills had been previously erected lower down on Spring creek; but "this was the first departure from hand power, and was run by an inclined treadwheel some eighteen feet in diameter,—horses and oxen being used indifferently. He (Northrup) never got it covered, and consequently never did much grinding. He took one-fourth for toll, when he tended the mill himself; but when his patrons ground their own corn he charged one-eighth. Reuben Skeels bought the stones, and put up what was termed a 'stump-mill.' The general features of this were the same as those of a pug-mill, or ordinary cane-mill. Posts were set in the ground and the burrs were placed on these. A sweep was attached, and the horses went round in a circle."

Benjamin J. Norville came in 1854, and located on section 27, although he had previously lived in Ash Grove, since 1841. He, with other early settlers, was obliged to go to Wilmington, on the Kankakee river, a distance of fifty miles, to mill.

In 1855 and 1856 the township began to fill rapidly with enterprising settlers. Among others were Garner Oliver, who erected the first blacksmith's shop. His customers came from a distance of fifteen miles. Previous to this date came Samuel F. Everett, in 1853, who located on section 22. William A. Hall, Sr., came the same year. Robert Looker came in 1855. In 1856 we find such enterprising settlers as A. N. Gabel, Sr., who settled on Sec. 22, T. 26, R. 10 E. I. W. Wilson on same section, and H. B. Booth on section 32.

In 1855 there was not a house between the timber on Spring creek and Oliver's Grove. The building of the Illinois Central railroad was undoubtedly the principal inciting cause for the sudden accession of numbers that occurred about this time; but we also find many who resorted to farming in consequence of the high prices that prevailed during the Crimean war.

Joseph Robinson was here twenty-four years ago. He had four sons in the army.

#### INCIDENTS.

The following account of a terrible prairie fire that swept over the township on the morning of September 23, 1860, is furnished by Mr. Booth: On Sunday morning a very destructive prairie fire came up from the southwest. The wind was blowing a gale, and everything was very dry. The fire had been set by men who were hunting deer. Mr. Booth saw the smoke, but felt no concern for his buildings, as he had taken all ordinary precautions against fire. The house stood on plowed ground; and about 200 feet away were stable and stacks of hay and grain. In the stable were a valuable span of horses, wagon, harnesses, saddles, etc. Near the stable stood a double corn-crib, and posts and lumber sufficient to fence 80 acres were near. A lot of hogs were included in the "assets." The fire, driven by the gale, came down on all this property; and before the family could realize it, everything except the house (a small one) was consumed. Twenty cords of wood, piled near the house, was also burned. The only thing left was his corn crop, which was not yet gathered. This, to a man just starting in business, was a severe blow. The house was saved only through the assistance of some men who fortunately reached the scene in time. Mr. Booth's loss was over \$1,000. Others suffered to some extent. A Mrs. Lapham was severely burned in endeavoring to fight the fire. A trunk containing considerable money had been removed from the house to a supposed place of safety, but it was consumed.

About September 15, 1857, W. F. Talcott murdered David J.

Stanley. These two men came to Onarga in the spring of the same year, and bought land in the S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 14, T. 26, R. 10 east of the Illinois Central Railroad Company. Their land being together, and being without families, they boarded together for a few weeks, and finally rented a shanty of M. H. Messer, situated just west of their land, where they kept "bach." Stanley finally disappeared, and Talcott stated that he had gone to Chicago. It was known that Stanley was expecting money, and some suspicions had been awakened in the minds of a few persons, but nothing was said or done at the time. Some time after, however, some clothing and a watch known to belong to Stanley were found in Talcott's possession. M. H. Messer and others then caused a thorough search to be instituted very quietly, and the result was, that the place where Stanley had been buried was discovered by James A. Hall. The grave was examined, and Stanley's body found. Talcott was at once arrested. He was indicted in January, 1859, and took a change of venue to Kankakee county, where he was put on trial, January, 1860, and plead guilty to manslaughter. He undoubtedly was guilty of willful murder; but was sentenced to state prison for six years. Neither the home of Stanley nor any of his friends was ever ascertained. A very full account of the above was furnished the writer by M. H. Messer, Esq., of Onarga.

#### RIDGEVILLE STATION,

On the Gilman & Springfield railroad, is five and one-tenth miles southwest of Gilman, and three miles west of Onarga. This village was laid out by Garner Oliver and others, and is a place of considerable shipping importance. Mr. Oliver himself is largely engaged in buying corn and other grain. The first shipment of freight was made October 9, 1871. E. C. Hall was the first postmaster in this town, and the first post-office was at Ridgeville. The village also contains a school-house.

#### THE VILLAGE OF THAWVILLE,

So named in honor of William Thaw, a prominent railroad man of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is also situated on the Gilman & Springfield railroad, about four miles southwest of Ridgeville. It is situated on the northeast corner of lot 5, in N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 6, T. 25, R. 10 E. Taylor John is proprietor. It was platted about November 1, 1871. It contains a large grain elevator, owned by G. P. Comstock & Co., and managed by B. H. Skeels for P. Risser & Sons, Onarga. The population numbers about 100.

The Congregational church and society own a fine church build-



ing and parsonage, built in 1875. The Rev. Mr. Sergeant was the first pastor. There is also a fine two-story school-house, built in 1876, designed for a graded school. C. C. Stone, of Gilman, has a branch store here. There are also one drug store, a furniture store, and a blacksmith's shop and hardware store by G. E. Butler. Thawville has a library of over 200 volumes; also a temperance union and a debating club. Mrs. A. M. Caswell is postmistress. B. H. Skeels deals in lumber as well as grain. The shipments from this point during 1879 were very large, consisting of corn, flax-seed, live-stock, oats, rye, timothy seed, aggregating nearly 200,000 bushels, and over 120,000 pounds of butter, poultry, etc.

In this part of Ridgeland is found an enterprise called the Thawville Dairy Association, a joint-stock company organized in February, 1878, under the general state law. It has paid out over \$1,100 in the erection and fitting up of a creamery, and is out of debt. The business of 1879 paid dividends of five per cent. The plan of operating is to receive in and weigh the milk and make monthly settlements, the patrons receiving four-fifths and the company one-fifth of the net proceeds. It is interesting to note the details of this important enterprise, showing what can be done in this direction to develop the manufacturing interests of the country where excellent water and fine and abundant pasturage are found. The product during the season for 1879 amounted to 19,814 pounds of butter, which sold at an average of  $21\frac{1}{2}$  cents per pound, realizing to the patrons an average profit of  $60\frac{1}{2}$  cents per 100 pounds of milk. The smallest amount of butter made in any one month being 1,723 pounds in October; and the largest, 3,669 pounds in June. The smallest price was  $15\frac{1}{2}$  cents per pound in June, and the largest,  $30\frac{3}{8}$  cents in October.

There are two other "institutions" found in the town of Ridgeland, which must be noticed. The Farmers Pioneer Fire and Lightning Insurance Company, organized and went into operation January 1, 1875, with David Metzgar as president; Charles W. Sprague, secretary; and W. R. Veatch, treasurer. It is run on the mutual plan, and is controlled entirely by farmers, and nothing but farm property is insured. Since its organization no loss has been incurred. The original premium of two mills on the dollar has therefore covered all expenses. When a loss does occur, a pro-rata assessment will be made. The amount of property at present covered by the risks of this company is about \$125,000.

A Farmers' Club has been organized for several years. It was at one time changed into a "Grange," but has since reverted to its

original design. It is one of the oldest in the country, and meets on the first Saturday of each month.

There is but one cemetery in the township, situated on the north-west corner of Sec. 5, T. 25, R. 10 E. It contains as yet but few graves. Mention has been made of the only tree that, about 1860, stood in the township. This tree was known as the "Lone Tree," and was at that time a conspicuous object. It stands on Mr. Kenoché's farm, near the bank of a branch of Spring creek, and is now surrounded by quite a large grove of native trees. It is said that "Onarga," the daughter of an Indian chief, was buried beneath its shade, having been killed by a jealous lover.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

Bellias H. Skeels, dealer in grain, coal and lumber, Thawville, came to Iroquois county in 1853, from Columbus, Ohio. His father had previously sent a large number of cattle to this section for herding, but died before accomplishing his purpose, viz: to embark largely in the raising of cattle. Mr. Skeels came to see the country and has since remained, with one or two brief exceptions. His first regular occupation was teaching. He was afterward engaged in farming. Mr. Skeels was born in Columbus, March 12, 1835. His parents, Truman and Betsey B. Skeels, both died in that city. Mr. Skeels is essentially a self-taught man, his educational advantages being such as was afforded in a log school-house. July 5, 1857, he was married to Miss Elvina Wiswell, daughter of E. M. Wiswell, a distinguished Odd-Fellow in the state of Illinois. Miss Wiswell was born in Morgan county, Illinois, December 10, 1841. They have two children: Luella and Jeraldine. The eldest is married to W. J. Thrasher, of Thawville. Mr. Skeels was in Onarga before a house was built there. After the firing on Fort Sumter, Mr. Skeels assisted to raise a company, and served for two and a-half years as first lieutenant in the 25th Ill. Vol. Inf. He has been engaged extensively in business and is widely known. He was deputy United States assessor during President Johnson's administration, and has also served one term as deputy sheriff in this county. He was the first agent of the Gilman, Clinton & Springfield railroad at Thawville station, and held this position several years. He is a Mason and an Odd-Fellow, and a member of the Grand Lodge of this state.

Samuel F. Everett, farmer, Ridgeville, son of Jacob and Mary Everett, was born in Halifax, Vermont, December 18, 1823. He lived with his parents until twenty-one years of age, and learned the trade of machinist, at Worcester, Massachusetts. He then went to Lawrence and remained about seven years working at his trade. While here he

married Miss Harriet Sweet. He is next found at Rochester, New York, where he lived two years, still following his trade. Mr. Everett then came to Chicago, and after some consideration, concluded to settle in Iroquois county, and engage in farming. In furtherance of this plan he located on the land he now resides, about 1853. Mr. Everett has four children living: Carrie P., Edward S., Charles W. and Hattie C. Mr. Everett's brother, Joel S., was educated at Amherst, and went as a missionary to Smyrna, where he died. Mr. Everett has a fine farm about two miles west of Onarga, and is emphatically a self-made man. He is a member of the Iroquois County Agricultural Society.

Robert Looker, farmer, Del Rey, came to Iroquois county in 1855. He first preëmpted 80 acres in Sec. 27, T. 26, R. 10 E. At that time there were but two or three houses on the prairie. Here he remained about two years, and then lost his claim and improvements through some chicanery. Mr. Looker suffered greatly through the sickness of his wife. After losing his claim he bought of the Illinois Central railroad the land on which he now lives, lot 2 in N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 4, T. 25, R. 10 E., at \$14 per acre, and after paying the interest on his purchase had \$3 left with which to begin again. Here he has remained, and has now a fine farm of 80 acres. Mr. Looker has done a great deal of well-boring, having bored over 300 wells, most of them in this county. He was born in Cambridgeshire, England, July 26, 1829. When nineteen years old he married his first wife, Miss Eliza Gee, and they raised a family of two children: John and Mary. About 1850 he emigrated to Canada and farmed about four years. Hearing of the rich lands of Illinois, he came, and selecting a claim, built a house, and then returned for his family. His wife died after a sickness of two years. He then married his second wife, who also died and left two children. April 3, 1866, he was married to Mrs. Sarah Conn, whose father was one of the oldest settlers in this county. They have two children: Cora M. and Edwin O. Mr. Looker has experienced some severe losses, especially of horses; yet these have been retrieved through great energy and determination. Mr. Looker's father lived and died on the farm in England that had been continuously occupied by his ancestors during a period of 128 years. He and wife are members of the M. E. church.

Henry B. Booth, farmer, Thawville, came to Iroquois county in 1856 from Oneida county, New York, where he was born July 6, 1829. Previous to coming here he spent five years in Canada in the lumber business. He settled on Sec. 32, T. 26, R. 10 E., where he has since resided. As illustrative of some of the dangers and trials of the early settlers, Mr. Booth related the incident of a destructive prairie fire,



which is given in the history of Ridgeland. June 16, 1853, Mr. Booth married Miss Sophronia A. Brown, daughter of Jabesh Brown, of Madison county, New York. She was born May 18, 1833. They have had six children, of whom William E., Charles H., Chauncy, LaMott R. and George are living. A daughter, Jennie, died in infancy. Mr. Booth has a beautiful farm and a model home. He has received a liberal education.

Garner Oliver, grain and coal dealer, Ridgeville, son of Garner and Mary Oliver, was born in Isle of Ely, Cambridgeshire county, England, May 7, 1831. His father was a veterinary surgeon. Mr. Oliver learned the trade of blacksmith. When twenty years of age he left England, alone, and coming to the United States, stopped one year in Cayuga county, New York, and finally located at Michigan City. Here he found profitable employment in the car-shops. While here he was married to Miss Isabella Watts, June 18, 1855. In consequence of the great prices realized for farm products during the Crimean war, and inspired by such reports as this: "A man in Kankakee county broke and fenced a quantity of land, planted sod-corn, and from his sales the first year, paid for all his land and fences," Mr. Oliver was induced to turn his attention to farming. He came to Iroquois county in 1856 and located on section 21, township 26, which land he entered at the government land office. At that time there was no house west within thirteen miles. The country abounded with game and wolves. About this time also a constant stream of emigration set in. The first year nothing was raised in consequence of dry weather. Subsequently wet weather produced the same results. Those who meant business and profited by experience were able to improve this state of things by opening ditches, hence their condition has constantly improved. Mr. Oliver is one of the persevering kind of men, and has succeeded where others have failed or ignominiously retired from this strife with natural obstacles. Mr. Oliver set up a forge soon after he came, and his customers frequently came from a distance of fifteen miles. This was the first shop of the kind erected in the township. Mr. Oliver is one of the original proprietors of the village of Ridgeville, and is now extensively engaged in the grain and coal trade. He has two children: Susan J. and Garner W. The daughter is now the wife of F. Jameison, the present efficient agent of the Gilman, Clinton & Springfield railroad, at Ridgeville.

Isaac W. Wilson, farmer, Onarga, came into Iroquois county from Seneca Falls, New York, in 1856. He was born in Warren county, New Jersey, April 23, 1824. When twenty-one years of age he left his native place, and finally came to Seneca county, where he learned

the trade of iron-molder, and continued to work at it while in that state. Mr. Wilson was married in Oneida county to Miss Sarah Gaylord, December 1, 1847. In 1856 he removed to Iroquois county and settled on 80 acres in section 22, town 26. He has since added more land, so that now his farm contains 240 acres. Mr. Wilson has filled various local offices, and for four years was president of the County Agricultural Society. He was the youngest of nine children. His father, William, died while he was yet an infant; hence he has always been dependent on his own efforts. Mr. Wilson has no children. He is a Mason. When he came to this township there was not a fence or building outside of Onarga, and but few buildings within the town.

In Alfred N. Gabel, Sr., farmer, Onarga, we find the characteristics of a remarkable man. He was born in the city of Philadelphia, November 1, 1821, and educated at the Pennsylvania University. Originally designed for the ministry, ill health compelled him to abandon this design, and he resorted to teaching in the public schools. In this position Mr. Gabel was not content to follow in the "old ways," but was able to carry out his own peculiar and progressive ideas on the subject of education. His direct ancestry reaches far beyond the period of the founding of Philadelphia. At the age of twenty-five Mr. Gabel abandoned teaching, and undertook the management of the extensive Bloomery & Taylor Iron Works, in Hampshire county, Virginia. Here his scientific knowledge became practically available, and he was able to introduce many improvements in the processes of manufacture. In this business he continued about ten years, when it became necessary for him to return home to settle his father's estate. This required three years. In 1845 he married Miss Ellen B. Beal, of London, England, whose father had been inspector of vessels in the British navy. In the spring of 1856 Mr. Gabel came to Illinois and made a contract with the Illinois Central Railroad Company, and returning to Philadelphia, commenced selling railroad lands. In 1857 he removed with his family to Iroquois county, and settled in Onarga. Here he began the cultivation of 200 acres, seven miles northwest of Onarga. At the end of two years he sold this farm and continued to live in Onarga until 1862, when he enlisted in the 9th Ill. Cav., but was discharged soon after through sickness. He afterward managed a rented farm near Onarga, and in 1865 bought the place on which he has since resided, about two and a half miles west. Mr. Gabel's specialty has been the manufacture of syrup and sugar from the sorghum cane. In this he has been remarkably successful, producing a very superior article. His product for 1879 was about 5,000 gallons. He has succeeded in making a good article of sugar, and is still experi-

menting, believing that still better results can be obtained. He is using improved apparatus, and aims to prosecute his work on purely scientific principles. He commenced the work in 1858 on a Cook's evaporator. Mr. Gabel has lately invented what he calls a "fertilizer dropper," designed to be attached to a corn-planter. He has used it successfully, and thinks that his corn crop has been advanced by at least three-weeks time through its use. Mr. Gabel has five children living: Emma V., Louisa F., Alfred N., Jr., Charles Beal and Luther L.

Anson L. Lisk, father of Byron and Allen G., came to this county at an early day, and was truly one of the pioneers of its civilization. He was the special friend of all new comers, and lost much through his disposition to accommodate others. He was a man of untiring energy, and was fond of improving new farms, and was carefully attentive to the planting of all kinds of trees. His children, as well as others, are now enjoying the benefit of his care and forethought. Every part of the farms now occupied by the two sons whose names stand at the head of this article are constant reminders of the father "who being dead yet speaketh." He did not confine his attention to any one class of trees, but evergreens, fruit, shade and ornamental trees were planted. Truly he made the prairie to "bud and blossom as the rose." He was born in Albany county, New York, which place he left about the year 1847, and with his family, consisting of wife and one son, came to Michigan, where he remained about twelve years. He removed to Iroquois county in 1859 and located on the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 5, T. 25, R. 10 E. Mr. Lisk was associated with others in the purchase of land, upon some portion of which he continued to reside until his death. His two sons and only children, Allen G. and Byron, now occupy the land he owned, and have continued to improve and beautify the same. They are on adjoining farms, the former living in Artesia township. Allen was born in Albany county, December 4, 1845; Byron in Michigan, February 25, 1850. He was educated at Grand Prairie Seminary and at the Illinois Industrial University. Both the brothers are largely interested in local improvements and are stockholders in the Thawville Creamery. Allen is a director of the Farmers Pioneer Fire and Lightning Insurance Company. Byron has devoted considerable attention to dairying, and during 1879 had the management of the creamery. Allen married Miss Ruth Bliss, February 12, 1868, and has five children. Byron was married, February 12, 1870 to Miss Alice Henderson; they have three children. The mother of these sons, Mrs. Garritee Lisk, and wife of Anson, taught the first school in this part of the township, in her own house (the same now occupied by Mr. Veatch). Another



fact should here be stated. The father, when a young man, visited the west, traveling the entire distance, both ways, in a buggy.

Jacob C. Shear, farmer, Thawville, was born in Albany county, New York, November 19, 1828. His parents were Stephen and Gertrude Shear. The family came to Seneca county, same state, when Mr. Shear was three years of age. He received such an education as the public schools of New York afforded. When twenty years old Mr. Shear married his first wife, Miss Harriet Steward, by whom he had one child, Francis, now married. Mr. Shear removed from Seneca county in 1858, and after stopping in Indiana a short time, came to Iroquois county in May, 1859, and located on section 5, town 25, range 10 E. In September, 1861, he enlisted and was made first lieutenant, Co. M., 9th Ill. Cav. He served nearly three years, principally in Arkansas, till 1863, then from Memphis to Corinth, and through Mississippi. A large part of this time he was acting captain, the captain being wounded. Mr. Shear has also served one term, 1877 and 1878, as sheriff of Iroquois county. For his second wife he married Miss Libbie Reading. They had two children: Charles and Herbert. About eleven years since he married Sarah Brown. They have three children: Thomas, Gertrude and Tenyke. Mr. Shear has a fine farm of 240 acres. He is a member of the Onarga Lodge, Watseka Chapter. In politics he is a republican.

Christian Knoche, farmer, Ridgeville, was born in Germany, July 3, 1821. He was married in his native land, and in 1848 emigrated to the United States with his wife and parents. They landed at New Orleans, and passing up the Mississippi, settled on land in St. Francois county, Missouri. Leaving his parents established here, he went to work in the iron furnaces, and devoted his earnings to the purchase of land. He continued in this way during eight years, then sold out and made another purchase in the same county. About this time he began to experience trouble from the guerillas, and was obliged to sell his property for what he could get. The family being obliged to leave the country, came to Iroquois county in 1864, and purchased 320 acres in section 28, town 26, where they have since remained. Mr. Knoche has a very fine farm, and has given much attention to stock-raising. He has recently built one of the finest farm-houses in the county. On this farm is a most remarkable artesian well. The flow of water through a four-inch tube is very powerful. Mr. Knoche has been very successful in his business. They have five children: John, Henry, Lizzie, Louisa and Anna, all of whom have received, or are receiving, a liberal education.

Stephen H. Howe, farmer, Thawville, son of Stephen and Nancy Howe, was born in Genesee county, New York, July 23, 1836. When

he was two years of age his parents removed to Livingston county, New York, where they remained four years. They then came to Racine and finally removed to McHenry county, Illinois, where his father died. His father was by trade a carpenter, but devoted himself largely to farming. In February, 1862, Mr. Howe married Miss Mary J. Lockwood, daughter of Zephaniah Lockwood. They have three children: William H., born November, 1862; Mattie L., born December, 1864; and Oscar, born August, 1876. In 1865 Mr. Howe came to Iroquois county and commenced farming operations on the northwest quarter of Sec. 4, T. 25, R. 10. He engaged largely in stock-raising and general farming,—manufacturing his own dairy products. He has a fine farm of 120 acres.

Lemuel Grove, farmer, Onarga, came to this county in the spring of 1866, from Fairfield county, Ohio, and settled in Ash Grove, where he remained three years. He then removed to this township and located on Sec. 35, T. 26, R. 10, where he now lives. Mr. Grove was born February 3, 1836. His father served in the war of 1812. His wife's father was a major in the Ohio militia during the Mexican war. Mr. Grove was married in Ohio, October 17, 1865, to Miss Mary E. Jackson, who was born September 8, 1846. At the first call of the president for 75,000 troops, Mr. Grove enlisted, and immediately after the discharge of the three-months men, he reënlisted in Co. F, 46th Ohio Inf. At the organization of his company he was made orderly-sergeant, and acted as such for about two years. He was then appointed first lieutenant and soon after was made captain, which rank he held at the time of his discharge at the close of the war. Mr. Grove saw his first heavy fighting at Pittsburg Landing. He was in the campaigns of Corinth and Vicksburg, also in the movements and battles in and around Atlanta, and in Sherman's march to the sea; then up the route pursued by Sherman, and his military career in the "twenty-one miles of boys in blue," at Washington. Mr. Grove served in some of the hardest fought battles of the war. True, he had received some slight wounds, but was always "ready for duty," until at Atlanta, August 3, 1864, he received a gunshot wound in the eye. Mr. Grove was sent to the hospital, and after remaining a month was offered his discharge, but refused it, and served through the remainder of the war. The ball is still in his head. That is the kind of men who assisted so efficiently in putting down the greatest rebellion the world ever saw. Mr. Grove has had seven children. The eldest died in infancy. The names of the six living are: Alice E., John S., Etta P., Gracie J., S. Lillian and Jesse. Both the parents are consistent members of the M. E. church.

Addison R. Butler, farmer and dairyman, Thawville, son of Elias

and Mehitable Butler, was born in Farmington, Maine, September 4, 1840. In 1851 the family removed to LaSalle county, Illinois, and settled on a farm. Mr. Butler was brought up on a farm, and received such an education as the limited advantages of that time afforded. In 1866 Mr. Butler purchased the land in section 6, town 25, on which he now lives. The following year he came to this county to remain. February 19, 1868, he married Miss Julia Shear, of Seneca county, New York, who was at the time visiting her brother, J. C. Shear. She was born February 13, 1834, and is the daughter of Peter P. and Sarah Shear, who were Quakers. They have had three children, two of whom, Luella and Estella, are dead. The living child is named Addison. September 7, 1861, Mr. Butler enlisted in Co. A, of Yates' Sharpshooters, afterward known as the 64th Ill. Inf.; was disabled through sickness from active service and discharged. Mr. Butler was one of the active promoters of the "Thawville Dairy Association," and at present has the business in charge. He is also supervisor of the town of Ridgeland, and was chiefly instrumental in securing its separation from Onarga.

Charles Cornwell, farmer, Onarga, moved to Iroquois county twelve years ago, and settled on the farm he now occupies, northwest of the village of Onarga. He is the son of Gilbert and Samantha Cornwell, and was born in Schoharie county, New York, March 23, 1831. In 1846 the family moved to Tazewell county, Illinois, and here his father engaged in farming. Indeed, Charles has passed his life on a farm. November 9, 1853, he married Miss Maria Lovelett, who was born February 22, 1834, in Westchester county, New York. They have three children: Dora S., Lester L. and Arthur H. They are members of the M. E. church. Mr. Cornwell and family represent in character and home qualities that type or class who have given such a pronounced social elevation as characterized the people in this section of Iroquois county.

William R. Veatch, farmer, Thawville, was born in Ross county, Ohio, November 6, 1830. He is the son of Thomas J. and Catherine Veatch. His father died when he was very young. Mr. Veatch married Miss Margaret E. Fearl, September 23, 1855, in Ross county, and soon after, with all his goods, mother, brothers and sister, with three-horse teams, traversed the country to Livingston county, Illinois, where they located and commenced farming and cattle-raising. Here Mr. Veatch remained until 1869, when he removed to this county, and settled on the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 5, T. 25, R. 10, where he has since resided. He has a fine farm, and has been successful in his business, and is highly respected in the community. Mr. Veatch has given much



attention to the raising of "graded" stock. He is a director in the Farmers Pioneer Fire and Lightning Insurance Company. He has five children: Henry F., George H., Lenora D., Margaret U., Thomas S. Henry is married and living in Artesia on a farm.

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## FOUNTAIN CREEK TOWNSHIP.

Fountain Creek was a portion of Ash Grove, and was early known as the Ash Grove country. The Grove, a corner only of which skirts this township, was the first timber, as travelers came north from Bicknell's Point (Rossville), between which point and this was the stretch of prairie which had a dread to those passing over, either in the storms of winter or the terrible dangers of summer fires. Fountain Creek is the center of the southern tier of townships, being bounded on the north by Ash Grove, on the east by Lovejoy, on the south by Vermilion county, and on the west by Pigeon Grove, and is described legally as town 24, range 13 west of the 2d principal meridian, being a full congressional township of thirty-six sections. The creek runs directly across the town from section 34 to section 1. The soil is rich and deep, having very few untillable acres; the prairie is sufficiently rolling, and there is little that could be added to improve it. As before stated, there was no timber in this township, except the scattering belt along Fountain creek, on the northern line of the town. The land gently slopes toward the north, and running across it are the small branches of Mud creek, having a general northeastern direction, and are fed by numerous springs, which make its water sufficient for stock purposes at almost all times of the year. For many years,—and indeed yet among the old settlers down along the Middle fork,—the stream was known as Bussing creek. When Mr. Ambrose Wood came here to live, not liking the name, and having no one to say him nay in all this open tract, he moved and unanimously carried an amendment which changed its name to the more appropriate one of Fountain creek. There were at that time no artesian fountain wells here to suggest the name, but the later development of those remarkable and valuable fountains, has given both an additional value to the land, and a shade of appropriateness to the name not then dreamed of. There are, in regard to artesian wells, many theories and facts which are interesting, for those living in a region so bountifully watered by these wonderful natural gifts, to study. The surface of the land in Iroquois county is well known to be very nearly level, and it is believed (the writer not having access

to any figures of actual survey) that no portion of the county is one hundred feet higher than any other portion. Whatever of declivity there is, is toward the north. From the high ridge of land lying south of Rankin, the streams all make toward the north. We should expect therefore, under the generally received theory of a subterranean reservoir which is forced upward by a great body of water in some higher region of the country, that the water would be reached nearer the surface, and that the outflow would be stronger the farther north we go. This is not true. So far as known, no flowing wells have been opened or artesian water found south of the line of Iroquois county until Bean creek, twelve miles south, is reached. All efforts to reach it failed at Paxton, though it was sought to the depth of several hundred feet. The well at Dr. Ludden's, on section 33, is the farthest south. In these southern townships, Fountain Creek and Pigeon Grove, flowing wells are reached at depths varying from 42 to 65 feet. In Artesia, wells of about the same depth do not flow. Along the line of the Toledo, Peoria & Warsaw railroad, a few miles farther north, the depth of flowing wells is more than one hundred feet. Farther north, in the vicinity of Plato, 140 feet seems to be the customary depth. At Chebanse, the well which supplies the water-works is 120 feet deep, but the water rises only to within twenty feet of the surface; while at Langham creek, where the surface is a few feet lower, the wells flow, as was to have been expected, but it cannot be supposed that the surface at Chebanse is more than twenty feet higher than the surface at Dr. Ludden's, forty miles farther up stream.

Ambrose Wood came here to live and took up land in section 27, in 1854. He came here from Blue Grass, in Vermilion county, and brought lumber for a house with him from Higginsville. The severe snow-storm which visited all this region of the country in January following, caught him before he had his domicile ready, and he found it necessary to fly to Blue Grass for shelter. This storm, which will be found frequently alluded to in these pages, has hardly been exceeded in severity or length in the twenty-five years which have followed since that time. There was at that time no house between here and Blue Grass, though Father Schwartz settled where he now lives, three or four miles south of East Lynn, about that time. Mr. Wood made his home here, and for a number of years made a business of herding cattle. He entered this land on 27, and farmed part of it. At that time the lack of material for fencing seemed to be the great drawback to farming. Land was cheap, it is true, but the expense of fencing a farm at this distance

from timber, especially where one owned no timber lot, was sufficient to amount to a prohibition. Timber land was held at prices that no poor man could buy, being considered worth from \$40 to \$65 per acre. Hedging had hardly been thought of, and farming without fences was practically out of the question. It had not then been discovered that the law ought to compel every man to take care of his own animals.

Jehu Judy came here about the same time from Blue Grass, where his family had long been and still is one of the leading families. He took up land in section 14. The Seemly post-office is kept by him, and is served by post-rider from Wellington. The office was established about four years ago.

John Leemon, a native of the north of Ireland, came into the country in 1857, and lived near the Hoopes farm nine years, after which he bought 520 acres in sections 27 and 34, where he now resides. He kept house "by himself all alone" for some years, and by careful management and frugal industry has worked out the dream of his youth when he left the land of his nativity,—a comfortable farm and a lively family. The wild desert waste which stretched from Hoopes' farm to Loda was unbroken by anything which could be called civilization. The Manns, down in Vermilion county, with the traits of true Britons, used to come up into John's neighborhood (in fact he was the neighborhood then) to hunt. They brought a pack of eighteen hounds for the purpose, and "wae worth the deer" that they got track of. After game got scarce down on the North Fork, John Mann never felt more at 'ome than when coursing through this region with some of his English visitors on track of deer. It was rare sport; and none seemed so well able to enjoy it as those whose traditions for generations are bound up in real or mythical legends of the chase.

Among the "game" which was notoriously numerous here at times in the early days were the pesky green-head flies. Mr. Leeman says that at certain seasons they were so troublesome that ordinary farm-work had to be abandoned in the daytime. Many horses could not endure the torment of these troublesome pests. He has frequently done fall plowing by moonlight, that his teams might be protected from the annoyance. Good crops of wheat were raised during his earlier farming here, and the influx of new comers made the market demand good.

Mr. William Leland, one of the family which has a world-wide reputation as hotel-keepers in most of the large cities of the United States, purchased 800 acres of Mr. George C. Tallman (a part of his



swamp land speculation), and proceeded to improve and stock it with sheep, fine horses and cattle. This was probably about 1858. Mr. Leland did not come on here himself and build a six-story marble-front hotel, but spent a good deal of money here. Mr. Robert Carey came here as his representative, and carried on the enterprise awhile. Mr. Leland, tiring of it, leased it to Mr. Carey, and finally sold it.

Parmenus Ludden came here about 1857 and engaged in farming. His brother, Dr. B. M. Ludden, came here about five years later from Indianapolis, and has been largely interested in farming and other avocations. Section 32 is a part of the Rankin property. The Messrs. Rankin own some six sections of land around Rankin in Vermilion county, joining this, and carry on a large cattle business.

It was not until after the war that the great prairie range of which this township was a portion was brought under the plow. Until then a large portion of it was only used as grazing ground for herds of cattle driven here from La Salle county on the north, and from Texas on the south. The adoption of the law requiring every man to fence his own cattle, instead of fencing his crops, which never trespassed, gave new value to these lands, and permitted men to buy and farm them without the great expense of fences.

William Goodwin has a farm of 1,000 acres in the northern part of the township. He is extensively engaged in raising and feeding cattle. Several other of the farms which were more lately brought into cultivation only lack the additions which time alone can bring to make them as beautiful and attractive as any spoken of.

As soon as possible after Mr. Ambrose Wood came here he used every endeavor to encourage and build up the institutions of religion. A firm and devoted member of the Methodist church, he missed the opportunities which he had formerly enjoyed where he had resided. Father Coleman, of Onarga, occasionally preached here, and Rev. Messrs. Moody, Appy and Sullivan had appointments here. The first class was formed at the school-house near the Bethel in 1869. The church was built in 1872, under the ministration of Rev. Mr. Bishop. It is a plain and well proportioned edifice, 28×40, and cost about \$1,900. Mr. A. Wood, John Reed and James T. Jones were trustees and building committee. Mr. Calhoun is the present preacher. This charge remained a portion of Ash Grove circuit until 1877, when it became attached to and a part of Wellington circuit. Preaching services are held here each alternate Sabbath. A Sabbath school has been maintained in summer.

The New Omish church (German) has a strong organization in

this town. They hang with peculiar tenacity to the cardinal doctrines of their organization. Among their strong articles of faith and practice is opposition to debts and litigation. No member is permitted to contract a debt without the reasonable prospect of being able to pay it; no church debts are ever permitted under any circumstances; lawsuits are forbidden: even following or prosecuting a thief is forbidden. When the millennium does come, one can readily imagine that the Omish brethren will be found somewhere in the front guard of those whose hearts will be found rejoicing at its coming.

By the census of 1870 Fountain Creek had 435 native-born inhabitants and 68 foreign-born, making a total of 503. The school census would indicate that its population has nearly doubled in ten years. The township was set off from Ash Grove in 1869. B. M. Ludden was first supervisor; Robert Carey, clerk; Ambrose Wood, assessor; J. W. Wise, clerk; and Jehu Judy and John Leemon, justices of the peace. The present officers are: Robert Carey, supervisor; James T. Jones, clerk (ninth year); J. W. Wise, assessor; James Jordon, collector; and Andrew Wood and James Jordon, justices of the peace.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

Benjamin Ludden, East Lynn, was born in Williamsburgh, Hampshire county, Massachusetts, November 27, 1815. All of the Luddens in America, so far as known, have descended from two brothers of that name who came from England, one of them being the great-grandfather of the subject of this sketch. Mr. Ludden's parents were Benjamin and Hope (Miller) Ludden, both natives of this country. He received a fair education in the town of Williamsburgh, and was preparing to enter college, when he was compelled to desist by weakness of his eyes. He went south and taught in an academy in Virginia and at various other places in different states. He was married at Plymouth Hall, Connecticut, in 1842, to Louisa S. Hammond, who was born in Vermont. She was a lady of rare intelligence, and aided Mr. Ludden in his teaching at Williamsburgh, his native town; also at Collinsville, Connecticut, and lastly in the Female Seminary at Circleville, Ohio, in the years 1847 and 1848. After leaving the teacher's desk he entered the Ohio Medical College at Cincinnati and graduated therefrom with honor in 1850. He practiced the two years following, and had a small stock of drugs about eight miles north of Cincinnati. He then removed to Indianapolis with his stock of drugs, which business he enlarged; also started the first china tea store in the

city, and continued in the practice of his profession here until 1861. Mr. and Mrs. Ludden are members of the Congregational church, and during their stay in Indianapolis Mr. Ludden was one of the projectors of the beautiful and costly church edifice belonging to that denomination in that city. From Indianapolis Mr. Ludden came to the south part of what is now Fountain Creek township, where his brother, who now lives in Savannah, Georgia, owned a large tract of land. When Mr. Ludden came here there was nothing but "sky and grass and grass and sky." The farm now consists of 1,040 acres, lying in sections 33, 34 and 28. He bought a half interest in the farm from his brother and has, since coming here, devoted his time and energies to improving this property. The farmers around had to go long distances to town and post-office. Dr. Ludden, seeing the need of such institutions as a farmers' store, blacksmith-shop and post-office, went to work and established them. He also put up a wind grist-mill that did good service in its day. To use the doctor's expression, he began to "centralize" here, but after the advent of the Lafayette, Muncie & Bloomington railway a few miles south, the institutions of "Luddenville" took a new lease of life at East Lynn, on the railroad in Vermilion county. The doctor has a large stock of general merchandise at this place, where he and his wife reside in the winter. In the summer they live at their pleasant home on the farm. Dr. Ludden has been postmaster at Luddenville and East Lynn for seventeen years. He is a republican and has been closely identified with the interests of Fountain Creek township, having served as supervisor ever since its organization, excepting three terms. He has no children.

John Leemon was born in Neury, Armagh county, Ireland, about the year 1827. He came to America in company with J. L. Hamilton, of Watseka, in 1850. The "boys" husked corn the first winter in Jersey county, Illinois, at two cents per bushel. John Leemon was early attracted to the cheap and valuable lands in the southern part of Iroquois county. He entered some lands in Lovejoy township, and moved on to his farm in section 33, in 1857. He built a house and set orchard and other trees, and lived here until 1865, when he moved to his present residence in Fountain Creek township. His farm here, containing 520 acres, is the one first improved by Mr. Wood, and is nicely situated, Fountain creek flowing through the western part. He also owns his old place in Lovejoy, containing 440 acres, and 125 acres adjoining in Vermilion county, besides a quarter-section in Christian county, which was his first entry of public lands. Mr. Leemon was married, August 29, 1865, to Lodema Brown, a native of New York, and the daughter of John and Catherine Brown. By this union they have had



five children; names and dates of birth follow: Izele, born June 28, 1866, and died January 9, 1879; Mary Eliza, born April 12, 1868; Robert A., born November 19, 1871; John, born October 27, 1874; and Charles, born February 11, 1879. Mrs. Leemon is a very intelligent lady, having taught several terms of school before her marriage to Mr. Leemon. She was educated at the Clarence Academy, near Buffalo, New York. Mr. Leemon, besides successfully carrying on his farming operations, devotes considerable attention to raising and feeding stock.

Alonzo Carman, farmer, Seemly, was born in Vermilion county, Indiana, December 2, 1843. He grew up in the town of Perrysville, Indiana, attending the schools in that place. In February, 1862, his father died. He then went to Wea Prairie, in Montgomery county, Indiana, where he followed farming and dealt in stock. Having good success there he came to Fountain Creek township in the fall of 1867, and bought 480 acres, most of which was raw sod. He improved this farm which he sold in 1876, and bought a farm in Milford township, which he kept but a short time. He came to the place where he now lives February 1, 1877. At first he bought 235 acres and added 80 acres more in 1878. He was married, October 10, 1865, to Mercy A. Lurger, of Montgomery county, Indiana. Her parents were first settlers of Wea Prairie. By this marriage they have three children: William A., born April 9, 1867; Frank L., born August 3, 1872; and Lewis W., born January 10, 1874. Mr. Carman has attained his present comfortable and independent circumstances through his own industry, honesty and good management.

Lemuel B. Russell, farmer and stock-raiser, Milford, was born in Williamsport, Warren county, Indiana, November 30, 1829. His parents, William and Fanny (Hall) Russell, came from Ohio to Indiana in 1829. His youth, up to the age of sixteen, was spent on a farm near Williamsport, to which his parents had moved shortly after his birth. When sixteen he began to work for himself, and in 1859 he was able to buy 160 acres in Warren county, Indiana, which he kept and farmed three years. He then sold out and came to the farm that he now owns in the northeast corner of Fountain Creek township, which also extends into Ash Grove and Lovejoy towns. He first settled in the woods on his farm, in a log house, where he lived four or five years. He then built a fine residence near by, and has since erected a large barn. He was married, December 29, 1859, to Elizabeth Hickman, daughter of Peter J. Hickman, of Warren county, Indiana. They have two children living: Charles A. and Lemuel B.; also one dead, named Peter W. Mrs. Russell is a Methodist. Mr.

Russell feeds a large number of cattle and hogs each year. He values his farm of about 550 acres at \$35 per acre.

Jehu Judy is the postmaster at the office in Fountain Creek, called Seemly. He was born in Hardy county, Virginia, February 19, 1825. His parents were Nicholas and Mary A., who were born and brought up in Virginia. The early life of Mr. Judy was spent on his father's farm in Virginia, which he left in October, 1849, and came to Blue Grass Grove, in Vermilion county, Illinois. He worked on a farm in the summer and split rails in the winter. In the spring of 1851 he entered 240 acres, where he now lives, and in 1852 erected a small house into which he moved a year later. He was married the first time, September 7, 1852, to Lucinda Haigler, a native of Virginia. By this union they had two children: Phebe M. and Lucinda H., both of whom are dead. Mrs. Judy died June 13, 1855. Mr. Judy was married the second time to Elizabeth M. Bible, also a native of Virginia. There were two children by this marriage: Mary J. and Susan V. The last named died in infancy. The date of this second marriage was March 18, 1856. The second Mrs. Judy died October 13, 1862, and Mr. Judy was then married for the third time to Tabitha M. Slusher, June 7, 1863. Her parents were Virginians, but she was born in this county. By this union they had seven children: Charles L., Jacob M. (dead), Sarah O. (dead), Minnie M., Martha H. (called Hattie), and Tabitha M. (called Tease), also another who died in infancy. Mr. Judy's third wife died November 14, 1875. He was married again December 12, 1876, to Cinderella M. Green, a native of Indiana. By this marriage they have had two children: Clara V. and Jehu G., both of whom died in the fall of 1879. The post-office of Seemly was established November 23, 1874, with Mr. Judy as postmaster, which position he has since held. Besides being a good farmer and stock-raiser, Mr. Judy has also been a carpenter and a blacksmith. He does his own blacksmithing yet. He has made the most of his money in later years by feeding stock. He owns a splendid farm of 650 acres lying on both banks of Fountain creek. West of his residence, on his land, stands the United Brethren church, to which Mr. Judy contributed in labor and money about \$700. He and his present wife are members of that church. His other wives were also members of the same church. He is a republican.

Thomas A. Blake, farmer, East Lynn, was born in South Molton, Devonshire, England, March 7, 1852. His parents were William and Fannie (Flexman) Blake. Up to the age of about fourteen he attended school, and then went to sea. He served five years as midshipman and two years as officer on a merchant vessel engaged in the East

India, China and Japan trade. He left his ship at New York in 1872, came to Springfield, Illinois, and shortly after returned to England, where he was married to Frances Maunder, a native of England, March 25, 1873. His bride's parents were Edwin and Rebecca (Flexman) Maunder. After marriage the young couple returned to America and settled in this township, where they now live and own a good farm well improved. They have two children: Florence, born April 2, 1874; and George-Redwood, born March 29, 1877, while the parents were on a visit to their friends and relatives in England. Mr. Blake has not yet been naturalized, but expects to become a citizen at an early day.

H. G. Hanson, farmer and stock-raiser, East Lynn, was born in the northern part of Norway, June 22, 1844. He is the son of Christian and Kyerstern (Erickson) Hanson. His father was a hardy fisherman, born and brought up on an island near the famous whirlpool or Maelstrom, the dread of the ancient mariners. The early life of the subject of this sketch was spent on his father's farm, where the sun is not seen in midwinter for nearly three months, and where the summer sun does not set for the same length of time. He came to Chicago with his father's family in the year 1862, sailing from Bergen to Chicago in the same vessel. His father bought land in Kendall county, and still lives in Grundy county, in this state. The subject of this sketch came to his present place in the spring of 1879, having bought his farm the fall previous. He was married to Lucretia Ward, October 2, 1873. Her parents are living in this township. By this marriage they have three children: Mary, born September 5, 1875; Caroline, born September 10, 1877; and Leonard, born April 10, 1879. Mr. Hanson has educated himself in the knowledge of English, and has so thoroughly posted himself in the history of this country that he is equalled by but few men of his age for general intelligence. The Chicago "Tribune" has been his teacher for the last eighteen years, so it is not necessary to speak of his political faith. He is the champion tile-drainer in the township, or perhaps in the county, having laid in his farm about five miles of tiling, and expects to put in more. He also has the finest young orchard in the township, thoroughly underdrained with tile, containing 500 trees, which are now coming into bearing. His residence, which is the best for miles around, stands on a commanding site near the center of the township. His farm of 240 acres, which surrounds this beautiful home, he values at \$12,000.

John N. Hoffman, farmer and stock-raiser, Rankin, owns 400 acres of land in sections 8 and 17. He was born in Bavaria, Germany, October 3, 1832. His father fought under Napoleon in his campaign



against Russia. He learned the rope-maker's trade and worked at it until he was twenty-one. He had a common-school education. In 1853 he went to France, and in 1854 sailed for America. During the voyage they encountered a storm, and afterward the vessel caught fire. He landed safe in New York, April 2, 1854, and began work at his trade at Williamsburg, New York. He soon went to Chicago, and then to La Salle county; from there to St. Louis, where he followed steam-boating for two years, between New Orleans and St. Paul. At the president's call for 75,000 troops he enlisted, but was not accepted. Liking a wife better than war, he married Otilde Gleim, of German descent, September 1, 1861, and began farming. They had five children: Anna, Katie and Jacob are living; George and Freddie are dead. He moved to this county in 1870. His wife died September 4. He married again and has one child, Lizzie, by his second wife. He is a Catholic, and a greenbacker in politics.

James M. Geddes, farmer and stock-raiser, East Lynn, was born in Ohio in 1837. His parents were Joseph and Catherine (Moore) Geddes. His youth was spent in Ohio, where he received a common-school education. In 1854 he moved to Indiana; in 1856 to Illinois, and settled in this county in 1861. June 17, 1862, he married Zerrilda E. Young, of Indiana. They have had eleven children: Elmer L., born August 30, 1863; Joseph F., March 22, 1865; Manda J., September 22, 1873; Rubie B., August 24, 1875; Nellie M., March 31, 1878, and Gracie E., July, 1879. The remaining five are dead. Mr. and Mrs. Geddes are members of the Baptist church. He is a Good Templar and a Granger. In politics he is a greenbacker. He began life a poor man; but through industry and economy he has obtained a comfortable home of 80 acres, in section 16, valued at \$2,500. He has a large orchard of apples and cherries, and a fine grove.

James Jordan, Jr., farmer, Rankin, was born near Ballana, Mayo county, Ireland, May 15, 1846. His parents were James and Ann (Mullen) Jordan, whose ancestors were Irish. When he was about six years old he came with his parents from Ireland to Kendall county, Illinois, where they lived six or eight years, and then removed to DeKalb county, in this state. In August, 1862, the subject of this sketch enlisted in the 105th Ill. Vols., under Col. Dustin. He took part in the battle of Franklin, Kentucky; was also at Resaca, Kennesaw Mountain, Pine Mountain, Peach Tree creek, Averysboro and Bentonville. He was in the grand review at Washington, and was soon after discharged at Chicago. He was seriously wounded in the head at Resaca, and lost a part of one finger at Pine Mountain, Georgia. After the war he took up farming in DeKalb county, and

came to this township in 1869, where he has since followed farming with good success. His farm consists of 140 acres, in section 30, which he has improved with buildings, fences and trees. He has been quite successful as a teacher, having taught several terms in this county, mostly during the winter. The people of Fountain Creek have given him the office of commissioner of highways for six years; he has also served as collector for three years, and is now acting justice of the peace. His parents are yet living, and in this township. He is a Catholic, and is independent in politics. He is unmarried.

James Carey, farmer and stock-raiser, East Lynn, owns a fine farm of 200 acres in section 25, which he values at \$35 per acre. He was born in Cheshire, Connecticut, November 5, 1838, and is the son of Robert and Ellen (Gordon) Carey. His father was of English and Irish, and his mother of Scotch descent. His early life was spent mostly in Connecticut and New York, his parents having moved to New York when he was fifteen years of age. From 1857 to the breaking out of the war he was employed as express messenger on the steamer Star of the South, plying between New York city and Savannah, Georgia. His last trip was in the spring of 1861, when they were chased out of Savannah by the rebels. He clerked awhile in a New York hotel, and in 1862 followed farming near the city. In the fall of 1862 he was married to Adaline Van Wart, of New York city. She was born in Cayuga county, New York. They have but one child living, named Ella E.; one, named James, died when quite young. In 1863 Mr. Carey came with his parents and other members of the family to Fountain Creek township. His father owned a large tract of land here which now belongs to different members of the family. Mr. Carey lived on Dr. Ludden's farm for two years and then moved to his present home on section 25. At this time there was plenty of wild pasturage and for three years he herded cattle. He has followed farming and stock-raising generally since he came to this state. In December, 1877, he went to Hoopeston to keep hotel, and remained long enough to teach the Hoopeston people the fact that he could keep a first-class hotel. He built the Phoenix House there, but on account of Mrs. Carey's sickness he moved back to the farm in April, 1877. After the Phoenix House was completed he rented it for two years and then sold it. Mr. Carey and his wife are Methodists. He is a republican, frank and outspoken in expressing his statements. He denounces rings and party tricksters, and is strong and popular in his party throughout the county.

Robert Carey, the present supervisor of Fountain Creek township, is not only one of the best and most popular men in his own township, but is well and favorably known throughout the county. He is the

son of Robert and Ellen (Gordon) Carey, who were natives of Ireland, of English and Scottish descent. He was born in Connecticut, September 9, 1844, and removed with his parents to a farm in Orange county, New York, when about ten years of age. About the year 1863 his parents came with the most of their family to Iroquois county, settling on section 26, in what is now Fountain Creek township. Their fine farm of 800 acres here now belongs to members of the family, the parents having died some years ago in this township. The subject of this sketch was married, December 9, 1869, to Miss Martha E. Wood, daughter of Ambrose Wood, Esq., of Fountain Creek township. Shortly after their marriage they settled down where they now live on a part of the old farm and have since remained here. Mr. Carey owns 120 acres which is well improved. He has an intelligent wife, and has three children living: Robert Ambrose, Sarah E. and Aaron Smith; one, named John H., is dead. Mr. Carey is now serving his third term as supervisor of Fountain Creek; he has also served two years as town clerk, and two terms as collector. Mr. Carey is a republican.

Ambrose Wood, farmer, East Lynn, came from an old Virginia family. He was born in Randolph county, now in West Virginia, December 24, 1823, and is the son of John and Mary (Hornbeck) Wood. His father was captain of a company that served in quelling the "whisky insurrection." He had a farm in Randolph county, where the boy Ambrose reached his majority, and then turned his face to the west and started for Illinois. In the fall of 1843 he "footed" it to the Ohio river, and came on a steamboat to Cincinnati; then walked to Vermilion county, Illinois, where he arrived in the spring, having staid during the winter with relatives and friends in Ohio and Indiana. He worked on a farm near Myersville, that summer, for \$8 per month. In July, 1844, he returned to Virginia, and came back with his parents in the fall. They settled on the Truax farm, in Blount township, Vermilion county. The next fall he went back to Virginia to get "the girl he had left behind him," in the person of Miss Ellen M. Smith, daughter of Henry and Mary (Skidmore) Smith. Her father is still living in Virginia, hale and active, aged ninety-one. Mr. Wood and Miss Smith were married April 2, 1846, and came the greater part of the way to Illinois on horseback. Mr. Wood and his bride staid on his father's farm until October, and then they returned to Virginia, where they lived three years, returning to Illinois in the fall of 1849. Mr. Wood now entered land near Blue Grass Grove, in Vermilion county, and settled there, where he lived until the spring of 1854, when he removed to Fountain Creek township, where he had entered



section 27. He and his wife put up a shanty here on the bank of Fountain Creek, where John Leemon's house now stands. They, however, soon built a better house, and lived here until the spring of 1861. At the same time that he entered section 27 in this township he also entered one-half of fractional section 7 in Lovejoy township, which a year later he sold to J. B. Wilson for \$1,000 in gold. He sold section 27 about the year 1861, and for several years leased or rented, coming to his present farm of one-half of section 22 in March, 1867. For thirteen years, from 1856, Mr. Wood herded cattle on the rich natural pastures of this township. He bored the first artesian well in the township, on section 22, out so far from timber that people said he would not find water. But he did find plenty of it, and now has flowing water wherever he needs it. He has planted considerable timber on his present farm, and has one of the finest artificial groves in the county, on the east bank of Fountain creek. It consists entirely of soft maple, covering about four acres. Although it has been planted only eleven years, it was the scene of a great Fourth of July celebration and picnic in 1879. Mr. Wood was for many years a large dealer in real estate in this and Vermilion county. He "contested" one section of swamp land, obtained the right of entry, got a patent, and sold the section at a great advance. He then obtained the right from the secretary of the interior to contest about 7,000 acres, but before he could get it through the right of contesting was denied. Mr. Wood is the father of ten children, of whom seven are living, named as follows: Mary V., drowned in a well at two years of age; Martha E., wife of Robert Carey; John H., living in California; Samuel and Florence E., both of whom died in infancy; Horace S., Aaron W., Oscar, Alice and Orrie C. In 1876 Mr. Wood took a trip to southern California, where his son John lives, and in 1878 Mrs. Wood also visited her son in California. Mr. Wood and his wife are Methodists. He is a member of A.F. and A.M., Hoopeston Lodge, and in politics is an active republican. Mr. Wood is a notary public, and has served two terms as justice of the peace. His long and varied experience in selling real estate he now finds very useful in writing conveyances or clearing up titles for his neighbors.

## STOCKLAND TOWNSHIP.

This township was formerly called Crab Apple, from a large grove of trees situated in the eastern part, and which at that time constituted the greatest continuous extent of timber in it, its estimated area being 70 acres. This grove was largely composed of crab-apple trees; hence the name had attached to the locality long prior to any township organization. Just *when* the change of name was effected, or *why* it was done, does not clearly appear. The records of the township give no account of proceedings which led to the change. Suffice it to say, the first record in which the name occurs is dated March 28, 1865, and as the previous entry is dated in the spring of 1864, and the name *crab-apple* is there used, it is presumed that the change was made at some time during the year 1864, or between the dates above mentioned. The reason for the change is quite as difficult to determine, owing perhaps to a disinclination on the part of the originators of the movement to expose any of their own little weaknesses or foibles. However this may be, or whoever may have been instrumental in bringing about so desirable a change, it seems that the name *crab-apple* was disliked, as conveying an erroneous idea of the character of the people; for whoever else may be *crabbed* or sour in disposition, most certainly the people of this township are not, as your historian can abundantly testify. Upon the question of a new name a great difference of opinion was manifested, until at length the name "Stockland" was suggested, and was at once adopted.

Stockland is situated in the southeastern part of Iroquois county, and is bounded on the north by Sheldon, on the east by the Indiana state line, on the south by Prairie Green, and on the west by Milford. The political township contains more than a congressional township, inasmuch as a narrow strip, extending along the east side, between the congressional township and state line, is attached for township purposes. Stockland may be further described as composed of township 25 north, range 11 west, and of fractional township 25 north, range 10 west of the second principal meridian. The same discrepancies in regard to irregular surveys exist in this as in other townships lying west of it, and as this matter has been fully explained in the history of Milford, it is here omitted.

## EARLY HISTORY.

The first settlement in what is now the township of Stockland was made by Samuel Williamson, who settled in Crab Apple Grove

in March, 1832. Mr. Williamson had previously removed from Ohio to Indiana, but not liking the country he sought a healthier climate, and finally located in this township. At that time there were no settlements on the west nearer than those on Sugar creek in Milford, and the nearest neighbors on the east were from six to ten miles distant. Soon after coming, Mr. Williamson entered a quarter-section of land, and commenced making improvements, partly upon his own and partly upon adjoining government land, which he intended to enter as soon as he could obtain the necessary means. His son, B. P. Williamson, also entered a quarter-section, partially adjoining his father's, and he too, in connection with his father, worked on the same government tract. It may be stated here, that this design was frustrated by another party afterward stepping in and entering the land, thus securing the benefit of their labors. A year or two after, another son, Philip, came with his family and joined his father. Mr. Williamson and his sons continued to reside on these lands until 1850, when the entire property was sold to Mr. Sumner. B. P. Williamson removed to and commenced operations on the farm he now occupies, while his father and brother located themselves some distance east of his place.

In the fall of 1835 Thomas Wallace moved into the country. He first settled in an adjoining township and raised one crop, when he entered and located upon the southwest quarter of section 17. Mr. Wallace was born in Virginia, February 20, 1800, and with his parents removed to Ohio, where he was married. He afterward came to this county with his family, as above stated. On this land he built a log house, in which he continued to reside until it was destroyed by fire. He then built a frame house, which is still standing, although the property has passed into other hands. When Mr. Wallace first came to this county, he says that he went to Bunkum to vote, and that some ten or twelve votes were cast at that election. He also owned a surveyor's compass and chain, and was often employed by new settlers in running out the lines of their several tracts of land; and is said to have surveyed in this way more than a township of land. He assisted William Pickerel in laying out the village of Milford. He also frequently drove a team to Chicago and to LaFayette. The burning of Wallace's log house was probably the first fire that ever occurred in this region, if not in the county. Mr. Wallace had five children. It was in this house that his wife, Jemima, died. The loss of his wife seemed to prey upon his mind to such an extent as to impel him to be constantly roving, as he afterward spent much of his time in hunting, and manifested no disposition to attend to



any business. He sold out and moved west in 1874. He was held in great estimation by his neighbors, and was always ready to lend a helping hand. It was while returning from a "raising" that he met his children, who imparted to him the information that the house and entire contents were consumed. His daughter, Mary E., afterward married Thomas W. Crawford.

In 1834 or 1835 James Cain moved into this township and built a "double log" house on land now owned by Benjamin Burt, another early settler who came in as early as 1838. Thus slowly the population increased, as one family after another moved in.

As late as 1850 not more than a dozen families had settled in Stockland. Besides those already mentioned were Samuel and John Nolin, Thomas W. Crawford, Nathan and David Cleaver, Asa Williamson, William Parker, and a family named Somes. The entire country, at this time, was what is called "raw prairie." What timber there was growing was known as "openings," and was principally along Sugar creek. Game of all kinds abounded, and could be readily seen and followed on horseback in any direction. The extensive annual fires effectually cleared up the underbrush, thus keeping a "clear field." These fires continued to sweep the face of the country as late as 1865, although each year witnessed a constantly decreasing area devoted to this destruction.

In 1851 valuable accessions to the population were made; among others, John H. Jones, Elisha Dawson and Jonathan B. Stokes, with their families. These were followed in 1852 by still larger accessions of enterprising settlers, of whom may be mentioned John B. Herri-man, George W. Freeman and Samuel Callahan. It must not be understood that others who may have come in during this time are not equally deserving of mention, but it is impossible to enumerate all. Many of those who are now living in this township, both men and women, were at this time but children, and have since risen to take their places on the great field of active life. Nowhere can a more enterprising and industrious class of people be found, as is evidenced by the splendid results everywhere now presented to the view. But at the time we are now considering everything was new, all were struggling to get ahead; and what one now beholds is but the glorious consummation of the well-directed and tireless efforts of an intelligent people. As the years have rolled on, others have come in, who, inspired by the same spirit of generous emulation, have but added their efforts to those who preceded them, until, indeed, "The desert has been made to bud and blossom as the rose"; the land bursts forth with fatness, and peace and plenty crown the whole.

Stockland is peopled with a class exclusively engaged in agricultural pursuits. Corn and farm-stock are the principal productions. There is not a village in the township; but from every elevated point may be seen, stretching out in all directions, beautiful farms, dotted with fine buildings, and covered with waving fields of corn and grass, and extensive pastures, in which are grazing herds of cattle; while in the timbered tracts may be found droves of hogs feeding upon the plentiful mast, to be finally prepared for market through the consumption of the vast quantities of corn that are annually grown.

The Indians who were found in this township belonged to the tribe of Kickapoos, and lived principally at Crab Apple Grove. They claimed to be a religious tribe, and held regular camp-meetings yearly in the neighborhood of Attica, in Indiana. These Indians also maintained a regular weekly service, and claimed to abstain entirely from the use of alcoholic drinks. They were entirely peaceable and inoffensive in their intercourse with the whites. An account of some of their peculiar customs is given in the history of Milford.

Early attention had been given by the settlers to the interests of religion and education. Many who had removed hither were of those who had not enjoyed the advantages of a common-school education, but they were determined that their children should not experience the same neglect, and as the country improved school districts were multiplied and school-houses built.

The first school-house built in the town of Stockland was a log building, erected in 1850 on land belonging to Benjamin Burt, and situated on the south side of Sugar creek, in the edge of the timber, and from this circumstance was called "Brush College." Here some of the present inhabitants received their education. The first teacher who taught in this building was William Williamson.

The first and only post-office was named "Bellwood." It was established, in 1854, at J. H. Jones' house; Mr. Jones was post-master. It flourished for a year or two and then was discontinued. James Craig was mail-carrier between La Fayette and Middleport via Milford, and this route took in Bellwood post-office.

The first public road located in this township was the Ottawa and La Fayette state road. It runs east through the central portion of the town to the Indiana state line. The present location of this road is not identical with the first survey, in consequence of many changes that have since been made. Robert Nilson was the surveyor.

The first birth was that of a child of Philip Williamson's; the first

death, that of a child in the same family. The first death of an adult person was, so far as can be ascertained, Jemima, wife of Thomas Wallace, in 1850. The first marriage was that of Lemuel Johns and Catherine Williamson. Mr. Johns came to Milford in 1831. His sons now live in Belmont. Another early marriage was that of Monroe Hoskins and Amy Somes.

No store, smithy or mill was ever established in Stockland township. Milford village was always "headquarters" in this region, and the population was of too sparse a character to admit of any exclusive privileges in the way of hotels, doctors or newspapers.

The settlers at an early period availed themselves of such religious advantages as they could command. The first class organized was by the United Brethren, in 1853. The first church building erected was in 1859, and called Sugar Creek Chapel. The only graveyard in the township is near this chapel. The first burial in it was James Richardson's, January 14, 1853.

The first Sabbath school was organized under a couple of hickory trees near Asa Williamson's house, on land now owned by Mr. S. A. Jones. A Mr. Doolittle was the first superintendent. The school was continued during pleasant weather at this place, and numbered about a dozen pupils.

#### TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION

Was effected April 1, 1856. Previous to this time what is now known as Stockland formed a part of Milford precinct, with the voting place at Milford. But when township organization was accomplished, this township was named Crab Apple, and together with Prairie Green formed a political township. This relation existed for a short time, when they became separate townships. The first township election in Crab Apple was held at the Gothic school-house on the date above mentioned, when the following were elected the first officers: for supervisor, Winslow Woods; for town clerk, John H. Jones; for assessor, Benjamin Burt; for collector, Lewis Lord; for overseer of the poor, Nathan Cleaver; for commissioners of highways, J. B. Herriman, R. P. Flagg and Zimri Hobson; for justices of the peace, Asa Williamson and J. H. Robbins; for constables, John Garlan and William Pierce. The moderator and clerk of this meeting were both sworn in by Asa Williamson, justice of the peace.

We thus find the township fairly launched upon an independent political existence, marking another epoch in its progress. We also find that it was not behind its sister townships in patriotic impulses. From the record we ascertain that the quota of men required from Stockland, under the president's call of December, 1864, for 300,000



troops, to be thirteen. An amount of money (\$800) was raised to pay bounties to volunteers, and the men were provided. This money had been obtained upon the joint note of J. H. Jones, A. J. Stevens, Thomas Wallace, Robert Miller, Philip White, James Williams and Milton De Armond, dated February 23, 1865. At the town meeting held April 4, 1865, an ordinance was passed voting the necessary amount to pay the principal and accrued interest of this note. A very large number had also enlisted at different times during the war; some of them fill soldiers' graves.

At a meeting held May 14, 1867, a vote was taken on the question of extending aid in the construction of the Chicago, Danville & Vincennes railway. The vote stood eighty-one in favor of, to three against. The amount of aid afforded was \$6,750. To the honor of Stockland be it said that this amount was paid in full, and that, too, while it was understood or expected that this road would run through Stockland, it did not in its construction touch any part of it. Few towns can show so clear a record. The town is entirely free from debt.

The town meetings for several years were held at the Gothic school-house. Afterward they were changed to the Vienna school-house. This school-house has been nicknamed "Hard Scrabble," probably from the number of squabbles that have occurred within its classic precincts. The township is divided into nine road districts.

#### INCIDENTS.

Perhaps there is no place that is entirely free from incidents of a character tragic or otherwise; yet the peaceful advancement of the people of this township has been seldom disturbed by terrors or mishaps. What few incidents have occurred are here given. The first fire that probably took place was the burning of Thomas Wallace's house with all its contents, already mentioned. Samuel Neiswonger's house, in the north part of the township, was burned in February, 1878, with a large portion of its contents; also in this year, one or two tenement houses on Ed. Sumner's land. Samuel Nolin's house was entirely consumed, with its contents, on the morning of January 12, 1859.

In 1866 the northern part of Stockland was swept by a tornado, which came from the southwest and pursued a northeasterly course. Samuel Unger's house was the only one injured. It was carried 32 feet and left in a badly twisted condition; everything in the house was broken. The family were carried with the house, but escaped serious injury. The stable was demolished and all the fences carried

away. On learning of his misfortune the neighbors at once assembled, and their united efforts soon replaced the house on its original foundation. It was repaired and reoccupied.

In April, 1876, a young man in the employ of Mr. S. A. Jones took occasion to hang himself in an old barn. No cause was known for the commission of the rash act.

#### CHURCHES.

The first religious society organized was a class of United Brethren, in 1853. Previous to this time no regular religious services had been held in the township. Occasional preaching was had ; among others, Rev. D. Brown, of Warren county, Indiana, had sometimes visited the people. The first United Brethren preacher who officiated statedly was Rev. Mr. Kite. In 1859 this society succeeded in erecting a house for public worship, at an expense of about \$1,000. This building has since been known as Sugar Creek Chapel. It is situated on the left bank of Sugar creek, near where it is crossed by the state road, in the south half of section 17. A Sabbath school is maintained in connection with this church.

The only other church edifice in Stockland is the Antioch Christian Chapel, situated near the township line in the extreme northwest corner of section 31. This society was organized in March, 1861, just four weeks before the firing on Fort Sumter. The meetings were held in the Gothic school-house until the society were able to erect a house. This was done in the summer of 1867, at a cost of nearly \$1,600. Rev. C. B. Austin was the first pastor.

Besides these two societies, there was a considerable number of people who were members of the M. E. church. Most of them were without special church privileges. Revs. Irwin and Ackerman, from the Onarga district, had held occasional meetings, and at one time had organized a class. These preachers were, indeed, assigned to Ash Grove, but hearing that a number of Methodists were scattered about this and adjoining townships, had come hither and held meetings in a school-house in Prairie Green, near the town line, for nearly two years. After the Gothic school-house was built, these meetings were removed there, and the class formed at one time numbered about 60 members. Of this number, it is worthy of remark, five were afterward licensed as local preachers ; four of them are still engaged as such : Joseph McLean, William Shawyer, David Prutzman and Zimri Hobson. This society was afterward scattered, through a combination of circumstances, and the class discontinued ; several of them are now connected with the class at Milford. At

present there is no organized body of Methodists within the limits of Stockland; those now residing in the township are connected with and usually attend service at Round Top church in Prairie Green. A Sabbath school was organized twenty-five years ago at the house of Mr. Hobson,—Mr. Hobson being the superintendent. The Sabbath school was afterward merged into the Sugar Creek Sabbath school.

#### DESCRIPTION.

Stockland township is nearly seven and a half miles in length, north and south, and seven miles east and west. The political township is not identical with the congressional. It contains an area of about 33,914 acres. The only considerable stream is Sugar creek. It enters the township on the east side, in section 7 (T. 25, R. 10 W.), and at first flows west-by-north until it has passed Crab Apple Grove, when it bends more to the south and continues in a somewhat south-westerly course, until it leaves the township near the line between sections 18 and 19. The entire course of the creek is extremely irregular, flowing at times toward nearly every point of the compass. In consequence of these sinuosities, a large portion of the township is well supplied with water. Numerous springs are also found on either side of the creek. As a rule the banks of the creek are nowhere abrupt or broken, but, on the contrary, are gently sloping and easily reached at almost every point in its course.

At the time of its first settlement Stockland was almost a prairie. But little timber was found, and that by no means of the dense character of other portions in adjoining townships. This sparseness of timber was owing to the extensive fires that annually swept the country. Since these fires have ceased their ravages, in other words, as improvements have been extended, the timber sections have had opportunity to grow, until now dense groves are found where formerly an unobstructed view could be had in all directions. In addition to these natural groves, many of the land-owners have wisely planted artificial ones, until now the most pleasing variety of woodland and prairie is presented to the view in whatever direction the eye may turn. The soil is exceedingly fertile, and there is not an acre of land in the township that is not susceptible of the highest degree of cultivation. It consists generally of a black loam; in some portions sandy, and in others of a peaty nature, somewhat loose in texture, and underlaid with either a stiff clay or gravelly subsoil. Large beds of gravel, as well as of blue and yellow clay, are found. The township is exceedingly well watered. Nowhere is water difficult of access,—hence the facility with which the great



numbers of cattle and hogs are maintained. Formerly the business of herding cattle was much more extensively carried on than at present. Still there are many who are able, in consequence of their extensive possessions, to conduct a large stock business. Among these we find: J. H. Jones, the Nolins, George Stichnorth, the Harmon brothers and others.

The largest real-estate owner and cattle-dealer is Edward Sumner, who lives in Indiana. His land lies in the northern portion of the township, and covers about twelve sections. Most of this land is occupied by renters, who of course have no direct interest in the development of the country, hence the only improvements are ordinary fences and an inferior class of houses; we see none of that adornment and evident pride that seems to exist in other portions, where the occupants are themselves the owners.

Immense quantities of corn and other grain are raised on these fertile lands. It would be hardly possible to make even an approximate estimate of the amount of corn raised during the present season (1879). The number of neat cattle returned by the assessor is 2,467; of hogs, 2,840. The number of bushels of corn returned for 1878 is placed at 331,690, but it must be remembered that previous years form no criterion to judge of the present or future, and the product of grain for time to come will be largely in excess of the product of past years. The cholera has heretofore committed extensive ravages among the hogs in this section, some farmers losing their entire stock; the number dying in 1878 being placed at 789. The number of fat hogs sold in 1878 is given at 2,758; of fat cattle at 1,277. No township in the county presents better facilities for carrying on all departments of agricultural labor than Stockland. Her farmers are wide-awake on all questions concerning improved methods of husbandry. Already considerable attention has been given to tile-draining, and many miles of tile have been laid. That the land will well repay such an investment has become an established and generally accepted fact.

Most of the improvements in this township have been made within a few years. The passage of the stock law has had a great influence in promoting farming pursuits. No fences are required for the protection of crops, hence one great item of expense has been cut off.

A dry fork called Coon creek crosses the northern end of the township, running from the east side in a northwesterly direction. The bed of this creek is usually dry during the latter part of summer and fall. A remarkable feature of the section north of this

creek is the "nigger heads" that lie scattered about; it is said that but few are found on the south side of the creek. Where these rocks came from, or why found where they are, are interesting questions, but by no means easily answered; the fact remains, however, that there they are; they are utilized as foundations for farm buildings. They are found in great abundance in the north part of section 2.

Not a railroad crosses any portion of Stockland, yet roads are accessible on every side. Every facility for shipping stock and produce is enjoyed by its people. Probably much the most of its productions are shipped from Milford, which constitutes the principal market in which to buy and sell.

#### SCHOOLS.

The township is divided into ten school districts, with a school-house in every one. The houses are of a superior class, neat and commodious. The amount of the school fund belonging to Stockland is \$5,300. The number of school children under twenty-one years of age is 450. The population of Stockland is estimated at 1,200.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

John H. Jones, farmer and stock-dealer, Milford, was born in Brown county, Ohio, October 30, 1823. His parents were John and Mary Jones. His father served in the war of 1812, and was at Hull's surrender. In 1829 the family came to Warren county, Indiana, and engaged in farming. The father died September 19, 1871. The mother died in 1851. In August, 1841, Mr. Jones was married to Miss Nancy Hooker, who died in October, 1843. He afterward married Mrs. Hannah Mercer in November, 1844. Their children's names are: Stephen A., Charles, Lewis E., Lina, Alba M. and Edgar A. (who are twins), Priscilla and Luther. Several of these are married. In October, 1851, Mr. Jones removed to Stockland and entered the land where he now resides. From small beginnings Mr. Jones has steadily advanced, until now he is one of the largest land-owners and wealthiest men in the township. Mr. Jones has often filled important public trusts, and has the unqualified respect of his fellow townsmen. A step-son, Wm. Mercer, enlisted in Co. E, 76th Ill. Vol., in 1862, and after serving until nearly the close of the war, died previous to his discharge. Mr. Jones is a stanch republican.

Mrs. Eliza E. Stokes, farmer, Milford, daughter of Job and Sarah Inskeep, was born in Logan county, Ohio, May 14, 1832. Her parents were from Culpepper county, Virginia, and came to Ohio at an early

date and lived and died there. She was married, May 31, 1851, to Jonathan B. Stokes. In October they came to Stockland, where Mr. Stokes had previously entered 120 acres of land. In the fall of 1852 Mr. Stokes built a small house on his own land in section 9, and began operations on his own account. Here they continued to reside until Mr. Stokes' death, in April, 1867. The small house has been succeeded by a large two-story frame, and here Mrs. Stokes resides. The farming operations are at present conducted by her son-in-law. Mrs. Stokes has had four children. The first, Sylvia C., was born April 21, 1852, and died February 14, 1870; Alice A., born April 25, 1854, and married, in March, 1871, to Willard Eltzroth; Preston O., born April 24, 1861; and Zillah C., born January 27, 1867. The husband and wife were members of the M. E. church. Mrs. Stokes has a fine farm of 280 acres.

Stephen A. Jones, farmer, Milford, is the son of John H. Jones and Hannah Mercer (see biography of John H. Jones), and was born in Warren county, Indiana, August 26, 1846. He came to Stockland in 1851 with his father. He was married September 16, 1872, to Miss Martha Gray, who was born October 14, 1846. Mrs. Jones' parents were John and Rebecca Gray. They have three children: John, born September 2, 1873; Edgar, born April 4, 1879; and Guy, born April 4, 1879. Mr. Jones received his education in the school of his district and at Onarga Seminary. In politics Mr. Jones is a republican.

John B. Herriman, farmer, Milford, son of Stephen Herriman and Abigail Buckland, was born in Clark county, Ohio, January 7, 1818. His father was born in New Hampshire and his mother in Vermont. His parents moved immediately after their marriage, in 1808, to Cayuga county, Ohio, and their first child was the first white child born in that county. They then removed to Clark county, where the mother died. His father married again and moved to Indiana. He afterward died near Bunkum, Iroquois county. J. B. Herriman lived in Indiana from 1836 to 1852, when he removed to Illinois and entered land in Stockland, where he has since resided. He was married, September 25, 1839, to Miss Nancy A. Jones, who was born September 17, 1821. They have had twelve children, five of whom are now living: Mary A., John S., Salinda, Emma and Addie. John enlisted in 1863, and was disabled after six-months service. Another son, James, was drowned at the mouth of White river, April 3, 1865, while on his way to join his regiment. Mr. Herriman and wife are members of the M. E. church. Mr. Herriman is a republican. Two grandchildren, Willettie and Annie Statzell, children of a deceased daughter (Sarah) are now



living with them. The older, born September 9, 1868; the younger, May 29, 1870.

James O. Freeman, farmer, Milford, was born in Warren county, Indiana, April 21, 1842. His parents were married in that county. His father was originally from Chatham county, North Carolina, his mother from Ross county, Ohio. In 1852 the family came to Stockland township, and his father entered the land where he now resides. Mr. Freeman was married February 8, 1869, to Miss Clara Hunter, whose parents, Samuel and Mary Hunter, live in Prairie Green township. Mr. Freeman enlisted, August 9, 1862, in Co. E, 76th Ill. Vol. and served three years. He was at Vicksburg, Jackson, New Orleans, Fort Blakeley, Mobile, Selma and Galveston, and served through these campaigns unhurt. He was discharged in August, 1865. His education was obtained at "Brush College," a log school-house described in the Stockland history. In politics Mr. Freeman is a republican. His grandfather served in the war of 1812. At the time Mr. Freeman came to this township its inhabitants could be counted on his fingers.

Lewis E. Jones, farmer, Milford, son of John H. and Hannah Jones, was born in Stockland township, May 5, 1854. Mr. Jones is still a young man, and is located on a portion of his father's land. He has received a good education, and has already secured a good start in life. He was married April 24, 1879, to Miss Susan Wise, daughter of Jacob J. and Elizabeth Wise. Mr. Wise resides in Fountain Creek township, Iroquois county. Mrs. Jones' mother is not living. Mrs. Jones was born December 10, 1859. In politics Mr. Jones is a republican.

Thomas Jones, farmer and stock-grower, Milford, was born in Cheshire, England, November 25, 1818. In 1831 he with his parents embarked at Liverpool, and after a six-weeks voyage landed in New York. They thence proceeded by water to Ohio via New Orleans. Here Mr. Jones remained until 1854, when he came to Iroquois county. At that time the prairie was almost entirely unbroken. He purchased land of Amos White and commenced improvements. Upon this property he has continued to reside, and at the present time has a large farm entirely under cultivation. He was married April 17, 1859, to Mary, daughter of Elisha Dawson, one of the oldest settlers in this township. They have seven children—four boys and three girls. Mr. Jones is one of the respected and substantial men of this township.

William Y. Sense, farmer, Woodland, son of George and Catherine Sense, was born in Botetourt county, Virginia, December 13, 1821. His father was in the war of 1812, and stationed at Norfolk, Virginia.

When William was ten years of age his parents removed to Preble county, Ohio, where they remained three years, and then came to Tippecanoe county, Indiana, where they died. Mr. Sense has been married three times. The first time, in 1844, to Sarah Masters. Then in 1855 to Lydia Davidson, and lastly in 1869 to Sarah J. Kelly. Mr. Sense removed to Stockland in 1856, but had previously entered the land he now owns. He has in his time resided one year and a half in Hoopeston. He now resides in Woodland when not on his farm. Although exempt through age, Mr. Sense patriotically enlisted, August 9, 1862, in the 76th Ill. Vol., and participated in nearly all the battles that regiment engaged in. He was with the regiment constantly, except when in the hospital. In politics, he is a republican.

Robert Miller, farmer, Milford, son of William and Rebecca Miller, was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, May 30, 1824. His father was a farmer and served in the war of 1812. Early in 1834 the family emigrated to Tippecanoe county, Indiana, and in the fall his father died, leaving a wife and six children in straightened circumstances. Mrs. Miller, however, succeeded in her difficult task of caring for her children. Robert was the third child and lived with his mother until he was twenty-one years of age. After he came of age he worked for some time for \$8 per month, when he went into the stock business with some partners. He was the principal manager of the business and made money. January 17, 1861, he was married to Harriet Stanley, who was born September 12, 1836, and died September 25, 1868. She left three children: Eva L., born December 16, 1861; Lizzie F., born August 26, 1865, and John S., born August 26, 1865. Immediately after his marriage Mr. Miller removed to Pontiac, where he remained two years and then came to Stockland, where he has since resided. He married for his second wife Elizabeth Paul, February 15, 1870. She has one son living, William V., born March 26, 1873. Mr. Miller has had only the advantages of a common-school education. Still these were wisely improved. In politics Mr. Miller is a republican, and has always been actively identified with the local affairs of the township. He is also a Master Mason.

George Stichnoth, farmer and stock-dealer, Milford, is a native of Hanover, Germany, and was born April 22, 1835. He emigrated to the United States, June, 1853, and settled in Vermilion county, Illinois. December 9, 1858, he was married to Miss Mary J. Endsley, who was born December 30, 1835, in Indiana, where her parents then lived. They afterward removed to Vermilion county. In 1861 Mr. Stichnoth came with his family to Milford and remained three years, when he located in Stockland township, on the land where he now

lives. They have had nine children, six of whom are living: Henry C., born March 2, 1861; Abraham, February 6, 1863; George B., April 29, 1864; Charles R., September 7, 1865; Mary E., October 15, 1867; James B., May 2, 1869. Three of Mrs. Stichnoth's brothers served in the civil war. One of them (Hugh Endsley), was severely wounded at the battle of Pea Ridge. Mrs. Stichnoth is a member of Antioch Christian chapel. In politics Mr. Stichnoth is a democrat.

George Crooks, farmer, Milford, came to Stockland, with his wife, in February, 1866. At that time but few improvements could be seen in this township. Mr. Crooks was born in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, October 15, 1838. His father, James Crooks, is still living; his mother died a few days after his birth. He was married, October 25, 1865, to Miss Hannah A. Glass, who also is a native of Pennsylvania, and was born February 22, 1840. They have three children: Mary B., born January 24, 1867; James H., born November 28, 1871, and Rachel I., born December 1, 1873. Mr. and Mrs. Crooks are members of the M. E. church. Mr. Crooks enlisted in Co. G, Independent Battery Penn. Art. Vol., August 12, 1862. He was discharged as corporal, June 15, 1865. During his enlistment he was on garrison duty at Fort Delaware. He had few educational advantages in early life, having lived away from home since early boyhood. Mr. Crooks has a beautiful location, and has been successful in his business pursuits.

Oscar P. Harman, farmer and stock-dealer, Milford, is the son of Anthony and Theodosia Harman. In 1864 he left Missouri and came to Indiana, where he lived with his uncle three years. He was born in Randolph county, Missouri, June 2, 1849. He is a half brother of J. M. Harman. October 29, 1872, he was married to Miss Lina M. Jones, a daughter of John H. Jones. They have one child, Leroy, born August 12, 1876. Until quite recently, J. M. and O. P. were in partnership in the cattle trade. They have been very successful in their business operations. Mr. Harman is a republican. He came to Stockland in 1867.

\* Mrs. Elizabeth Morgan, farmer, Sheldon, was born in Clinton county, Ohio, March 23, 1820. Her parents were Molleston and Susannah Fisher. Her mother died when she was nine months old. Her father died in Indiana, in 1861, nearly ninety years of age. In 1837 the family left Ohio and came to Huntington county, Indiana. Elizabeth was married, October 25, 1838, to Charles Morgan, who was born in North Carolina, and came to Indiana with his sisters when fifteen years of age. After marriage Mr. Morgan and wife remained for a time on their farm of 60 acres; then sold and came to Warren



county, where they lived two years; again sold and removed to Stockland in February, 1867. Mr. Morgan died September 8, 1874. The family have since continued to reside on the farm. They have had eleven children: Lorena, born May 29, 1840; Malinda, born October 12, 1841; Clinton, born April 8, 1843; Julia A., born January 7, 1845; Wesley, born November 20, 1846; Mary, born May 23, 1849; Isaiah, born April 30, 1852; Ascena A., January 26, 1855; Daniel L., born November 10, 1856; Ezra L., born November 16, 1860; Maria J., born September 9, 1862. Julia, Mary and Maria are dead. Two daughters and one son are married. Wesley enlisted in the 47th Ind. Vol., and served nearly three years. The husband and sons were republican in politics. Mrs. Morgan is a member of the United Brethren church. Her present circumstances are prosperous.

Jacob M. Harman, farmer and stock-dealer, Milford, son of Anthony and Sarah A. Harman, was born in Randolph county, Missouri, December 31, 1841. His father was from Virginia, and his mother from Kentucky. They were married in Missouri, to which state the respective families had removed at an early date. Mrs. Harman died September 10, 1844. Mr. Harman's father was again married, March 26, 1846, to Theodosia Carver, by whom he had two children: Oscar and Robert. April 27, 1865, J. M. Harman married Miss Emma Cox, who was born in Monroe county, Missouri, December 28, 1845. They have three children: Jacob A., born March 7, 1866; Charlie, born July 30, 1871; and an infant, born August 6, 1879. Mr. Harman continued to live with his father until the property in Missouri was exchanged for land in Benton county, Indiana. He lived a short time in Indiana, when he removed to his present location in Stockland in 1871. Mr. Harman is extensively engaged in raising corn and cattle, and has an excellent farm. With his two brothers, Oscar and Robert, he occupies an extensive tract of about 4,000 acres in Illinois and Indiana. Mr. Harman is a staunch republican, and he and wife are members of the Christian church.

The parents of Alfred U. Hamilton, farmer, Milford, Wiley and Lucinda Hamilton, were from New England. The father was born in Hampshire county, Massachusetts, and served through the war of 1812 as a lieutenant and saw active service. The mother was an Upson, and was born in Waterbury, Connecticut. Alfred U. Hamilton was born in Summit county, Ohio, May 13, 1812. His grandfather, Hamilton, served through the American revolution. His great-grandfather was a brother of Alexander Hamilton, with whom he emigrated from Scotland. Mr. Hamilton's parents moved to Ohio in 1802 with Judge Payne. In 1833 the family removed to Toledo, where they remained

fourteen years. The parents died in Ohio. Mr. Hamilton was married, December 25, 1845, to Miss Susan Hubbell. They have three sons and one daughter. The daughter is married. In 1847 the family came to Attica, Indiana, where they lived three years. In 1850 Mr. Hamilton removed to Iroquois county and settled in Loda, and in 1878 came to Stockland. Mr. Hamilton is by trade a ship-carpenter. He worked in Toledo and Attica. He finally abandoned his trade and has since devoted himself to farming. Mr. Hamilton is a republican. Mrs. Hamilton is a member of the Christian church.

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### MARTINTON TOWNSHIP.

Martinton occupies a position in the center of the northeast quarter of the county, having Papineau on its northern boundary, Beaver on its eastern, Middleport and Iroquois townships on its southern, and the Iroquois river on its western boundary, and contains all of town 28, range 12 west of the 2d principal meridian, and all lying east of the river, (being about one-half) of town 28, range 13. The Chicago & Eastern Illinois railroad passes from north to south nearly through its center, having the station of Martinton on it; and the Cincinnati, La Fayette & Chicago railroad runs by the northeastern corner of the town, giving to its citizens the benefit of Chicago, Cincinnati and eastern markets by two railroads, which in their very nature cannot combine and "pool" their earnings from this vicinity. The soil is chiefly the fertile sandy loam common along the Iroquois river. Originally nearly one-third of its surface was covered with timber. Along its western portion the timber along the river, extending about two miles back from the stream and along Pike creek, was heavy, and was drawn on for fencing, building and fuel, as it still is. For several miles along its eastern side, Bean's Grove stretched out, affording hospitable shelter for those pioneers who there made their homes. Until the building of the two roads referred to the farms here were distant from market, and this distance was a serious drawback to the cultivation of the land, but it was a favorite grazing-ground for those who were looking to the raising of cattle. With the increased railroad facilities, however, the land came rapidly into more complete cultivation, and the free system of drainage adopted is fast reclaiming even those portions which were supposed to be impossible to cultivate.

The first settlers in the township are believed to have been those who came to Bean's Grove and put up their cabins along from 1833 to 1840. As they are nearly all gone now and their places supplied by others, the

dates of their coming and going can only be approximately determined. The writer is under obligations for such information to Mr. Bean, of Donovan. Aaron Rush is believed to have been the first of these, and must have arrived here about 1833. He resided here nearly forty years. He removed to Wisconsin about 1873, and died there. A son lives at Watseka, and a daughter, Mrs. Green, lives here yet. Mr. Cottrel, who came soon after, removed to near Watseka, twenty-five years ago, and his family went to Iowa and Kansas. Benjamin King, who came here soon after, returned to Indiana and died there. James Williams was another early settler. He went to Wisconsin with his family many years ago.

E. M. Hammond, who came about 1836, died here some fifteen years since. His son, Charles, resides on the place yet. Jones Green died on the place which he early took up, about 1854. His widow lives on the place. His son, Sidney, lives near, and daughters, Mrs. Gillaspie and Mrs. Sherill, in Watseka. Mr. Gillaspie, who was another of the pioneers, died on the place where his family still lives. John Merrily still lives on the farm which he early reduced from its wild condition, though his family, except one son, have all died. Mr. Edwards moved many years ago to Mokence, and from there to Bourbonnais, where he followed the occupation of milling. Further west from the Bean's Grove settlement, and just on the south line of the township, old man Floyd, as he is still called, built a shanty near where the Van Meeter house now stands, about 1845, and lived in it some years.

Thomas Yates, known all over this end of the state of Illinois as one of the cattle kings of the west, was one of the first settlers in the western portion of Martinton. He and his father had subdued the land lying south of L'Erable, over on the west side of the Iroquois, and covered it over with good graded cattle and sheep, early in the forties. Becoming crowded there (John Wilson on the south, Thomas Stump on the west, and Peter Spink on the north, each two miles away) he sold to Mr. Ayres, and crossed over the Jordan (Iroquois), where he could have room to spread and keep a few hundred head of cattle. With a constitutional tendency to scatter, he ranged all over this side of the river, and is now in Iroquois township. John Scoon settled where he now lives, a few years later. He had a large family of children.

For a long time these three pioneers, Yates, Bryant and Scoon, were the only residents in this part of Martinton. They had no school except as they sent their children across the river on the ice or in small boats, and so far as roads, bridges, and other conveniences of civilization were concerned, they might as well have been the only



settlers in the county. They held out bravely, however, and finally saw this region, which had so long been *terra incognita* filled up with a teeming population. A neat school-house stands on the road near by, and every evidence of civilization appears where so long the wilderness was untouched.

In the olden time, before the railroad was known, the old stage-route from Bourbonnais to Middleport traversed this township, but there was no post-office within its present boundaries. The old Democrat post-office, a relic of our early congressman, John Wentworth, the long-time editor and proprietor of the Chicago "Democrat," was down on Beaver creek. At the time the Martins came here to live, and began business at Old Martinton, Mr. Beckett was appointed post-master of Democrat and received his commission, but all endeavors to get a post-route to that place failed, and it was not until the railroad was built in 1871, that a post-office was established in the township.

Porter Martin,—from whom the township received its name,—removed here about the time the Central railroad was built through the county, and with his family has been largely identified with the interests of the township since that time. They were originally from Vermont, and were imbued with the "green mountain" spirit of enterprise and "push." He had four sons: James, John, Warren and Barney; and two daughters: Mrs. Stearns and Mrs. Burnham. James commenced mercantile business with Mr. Beckett, at Old Martinton, in 1856. A town was laid out and lots were sold, but no record of the plat was ever made. Martin & Beckett sold the store to John L., he to Porter, who in turn sold to S. J. Martin, and she to J. W. Stearns & Co., who moved the stock when New Martinton was laid out on the railroad, to that place. The point was a famous trading point, and it is known that as high as \$24,000 worth of goods were sold some years. Mr. Carreau had a blacksmith shop there, and that prince of good fellows, A. O. Edison, after having helped build the Central railroad as far south as Spring creek, settled here and opened up a wagon-shop, and followed the trade of carpenter and house-builder. Mr. Edison is a cousin of the genius of Menlo Park, who has recently made his name famous by those wonderful inventions, wherein he has shown that human ingenuity can counterfeit nature in matters pertaining to sound and light.

Mr. and Mrs. Martin, and their sons John and James, are dead. Warren lives on a farm in this township, and Barney is the station agent and lightning-dispenser at Martinton station, and shows that it does not spoil a Vermont Yankee boy for general usefulness, by being brought up in the Iroquois timber.

Considerable land in the township is owned by non-residents. Mason Ayers, who was among the early settlers in this county, and now in his old age residing in West Virginia, owns 1,041 acres in sections 26, 27 and 28, along Little Beaver creek, which is mostly in pasture, and is occupied by Mr. Thomas Stump, of Ashkum township, who keeps a lot of cattle on it. Mr. W. N. Coney, a merchant in Watseka, owns six improved farms in different portions of the town, and several other tracts, and Donovan & Vennum have half a section. Peter Enos, who resides in Chebanse, owns the south half of 26 and north half of 35, range 13, half of which is in cultivation and half in pasture.

The earlier settlers were mostly from Indiana or Ohio, and a few came in later from the eastern states. There are scattered here and there representatives from most foreign countries. Of late years the French Canadians from the settlements in Ashkum and Papineau have spread into this town, and many of the citizens of the township are of that nativity.

There is no church in Martinton. Most, if not all, of the French residents are members of the Roman Catholic church, and attend worship regularly either at L'Erable, Papineau or St. Mary's. The Martin family were Universalists in belief, and had occasional preaching by clergymen of that denomination at Old Martinton. Many of the residents are Spiritualists in belief. The Christian denomination had some years since an organization at Bean's Grove, and kept up services with more or less regularity. When Donovan became a town the organization was moved there.

Politically, the town was strongly republican until the "farmers' movement" which swept over this and adjoining counties in 1873, since which it has been usually in opposition to the republican party, but never democratic. At the September meeting of the board of supervisors, in 1857, the present town of Martinton was set off and named Buchanan, from the then president of the United States. The first town meeting was held at the store of Martin & Beckett, for years the place of holding all public meetings. In 1858 Thomas Maggee was the first supervisor, as up to this time the last. Two years later the election of Mr. Martin, one of the family which during more than a quarter of a century has been a central figure in the business, official and social life of the township, suggested a change to the appropriate name of Martinton. At the first election which occurred, in 1858, Thomas Maggee was chosen supervisor; N. M. Bancroft, clerk; J. P. Martin, assessor; J. Matzenbaugh, collector; J. P. Martin and E. M. Hammond, justices of the peace. With the exception of two

years (1872-3), Messrs. Martin and Maggee have held the office of supervisor all the time since the organization of the township. Victor Pettior has acted as collector for the last sixteen years. At the election in 1858, 66 votes were cast. At the present writing the voting population is nearly 200, indicating a population of about 1,000. The present officers of the township are: Thomas Maggee, supervisor; S. Lottinville, clerk; A. O. Edison, assessor; Victor Peltier, collector; and J. L. Martin and Victor Peltier, justices of the peace.

January 13, 1868, at a special town meeting, the town voted by fifty-five to forty-two in favor of a tax of \$10,000 to the Chicago, Danville & Vincennes Railroad Company. At a later day the town, at a special town meeting, voted by a large majority, which amounted to almost unanimity, against issuing \$12,000 in bonds for the same railroad company. Soon after this the officers of the township issued to the company \$11,000 in bonds in lieu of the money which was to have been raised by the tax voted in January, 1868, under the belief that bonds to the amount of \$11,000 would be equivalent, to the company and to the township, to the tax voted. There seems to be no charge that the officers acted otherwise than in the utmost good faith toward the company and the township. Still, as the township never voted to issue bonds,—indeed, voted almost unanimously not to do so,—there is said to be a disposition shown, however, on the part of the company or its successors, to attempt to enforce by law their claim against the town under the vote of January 13, 1868.

#### MARTINTON VILLAGE.

Martinton, a hamlet of twenty-five houses and the usual warehouses, stores and shops, was laid out when the railroad was built on land of Adam Wamba; but following the custom in such cases he had to convey it to the railroad company before a depot could be secured. The company conveyed it to John L. Donovan, who platted the town, and through whom title of all lots was received. J. W. Stearnes was the first to commence mercantile business here, by bringing his stock of goods from Old Martinton in the spring of 1872. Thomas Maggee, Jr., commenced buying grain for Simon & Runyan during that winter. Mr. Comstock put up the warehouse, and still owns it. Dr. Collins was the first physician, and was succeeded by Dr. Tascher, and he by Dr. B. L. Ewans, the present one. Mr. Stearnes sold his mercantile business to Bowman, who a few months later moved the goods to Watseka. Savoie & Lottinville engaged in mercantile business, and, after Mr. Bowman retired, took in Mr. Massy as a partner, and carried on two stores until 1877, when the firm dissolved, Mr. Lottinville



retaining the hardware trade, which he still carries on. The other store was sold to E. T. Frechette & Son, who continue it yet. Massy, Pilotte & Co. bought grain here from 1871 to 1877. Laveau & Legaree carry on the grain trade, and sell lumber, coal, etc. Mr. Foscender also has an agent buying grain here, and Mr. Wamba deals in hay. Henry G. Stearnes was the first postmaster; Victor Peltier was appointed in February, 1875, and continues in office yet. The village was incorporated in 1875. September 24 the county court ordered an election to be held, on petition duly presented, and the election was held October 23. Isaac Pilotte, Peter Gamache, Barney Martin, Samuel Lottinville, Levi Case and A. Belgard were elected trustees; Pilotte was elected president; V. Peltier, clerk; and A. Belgard police magistrate. Mr. Peltier has continued to act as clerk the entire time, and he and Mr. Lottinville are now the oldest business men in town.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

William Lyman, farmer and stock-raiser, Pittwood, was born in Pennsylvania, July 21, 1811. When six years of age with his parents he moved to Stark county, Ohio, where he spent his youth with his parents engaged in farming till he came to Illinois in May, 1837. He at once entered government land in Iroquois county, and engaged in farming and stock-raising, the country at that time being well fitted for the latter business. At the time he settled in this county there were scarcely any improvements of any kind, and his nearest market was Chicago, where he hauled grain with ox teams, fording the streams, a bridge then being a thing unknown. Many times during his pioneer life, when the rivers and creeks were unfordable, he was compelled to grind corn for bread in a coffee-mill, or pound it in a mortar made in the top of an oak log or stump, and so live for weeks till the roads, or rather prairies, rivers, creeks and sloughs became passable, and he has, after going to mill, had his return delayed by bad weather for weeks. In 1831 he married Mrs. Shipman, who is a native of New Jersey, and was born November 15, 1796, and with whom he is still living. They lived for many weeks after their arrival in this county under the protecting branches of an oak tree, having no material with which to build. He now has 290 acres of land, and his patent is signed by President Martin Van Buren. He has two children living: Hannah, wife of John L. Barley; and Andrew W., with whom he now lives. His home farm is on section 6, town 27, range 13, in the old Lyman settlement.

Andrew J. Lyman, farmer and stock-raiser, Pittwood, came to Iroquois county, Illinois, in 1839, from Stark county, Ohio, where he

was born July 7, 1836. His father, he thinks, built the fourth house in old Middleport, formerly the county-seat of Iroquois county, but he soon after died, and Andrew's mother married again and removed north about four miles, to the place known as the Lyman settlement. Here he lived with his mother till the age of fifteen years. His mother then died, and he then began for himself by working out at breaking prairie. His school advantages were very limited, only going to school about six months. His teacher was Miss Eliza Gardner, who taught the first school in the Lyman settlement. November 19, 1861, he married Miss Elmira Brandenburg, who was born in Fountain county, Indiana, November 29, 1843; and August 9, 1862, he enlisted in Co. B. 113th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf., and was honorably discharged February 17, 1863, by reason of disability. He now owns 120 acres of land, all earned by his own industry, hard labor and close attention to business. He has lived here to see this county pass through a great change. Deer and other wild animals occupied undisturbed all the surrounding country when he first came, and now it is thickly settled and well improved with railroads and villages in every direction. His nearest market formerly was Chicago, where he has hauled grain with ox teams, requiring at times eight yoke of oxen to haul through the Calumet swamps. He has six children: Frank A., Cora J., Alta S., Mary, Kittie and Ida P.

Russel B. Weygandt, farmer and stock-raiser, Martinton, is a native of Ohio, and was born March 21, 1834. His early youth, till about the age of fifteen years, was spent with his parents in Ohio attending school. In October, 1849, he came in company with his parents to Iroquois county, Illinois, and settled with them near where he now lives, and engaged in farming and stock-raising, the latter business being engaged in to great advantage at that time. The townships of Papineau and Martinton derived their first name from his father's name. His nearest market then was Chicago by team, a distance of about seventy miles, via the old Hubbard trail. September 15, 1859, he married Miss Mary A. Murphy, a native of Indiana. August 8, 1862, he volunteered his services to his country, and became a member of company I, 113th Ill. Inf., and was severely wounded June 10, 1864, and after a month's treatment by the regimental surgeon was sent home. He remained at home five months, and then returned to his regiment before his wound was healed and actively engaged until discharged June 29, 1865, having risen to the position of orderly-sergeant of his company. January 25, 1877, his wife died, and October 12, 1879, he married Miss Adelia Phillips, a native of North Carolina, and born October 5, 1844. He now has four children living: Silas J., Francis M., Annie May and

James A. He owns 160 acres of land two miles east of Martinton station, very highly improved. He has filled the position of school treasurer two terms, commissioner of highways three years, school trustee three years, and school director many years.

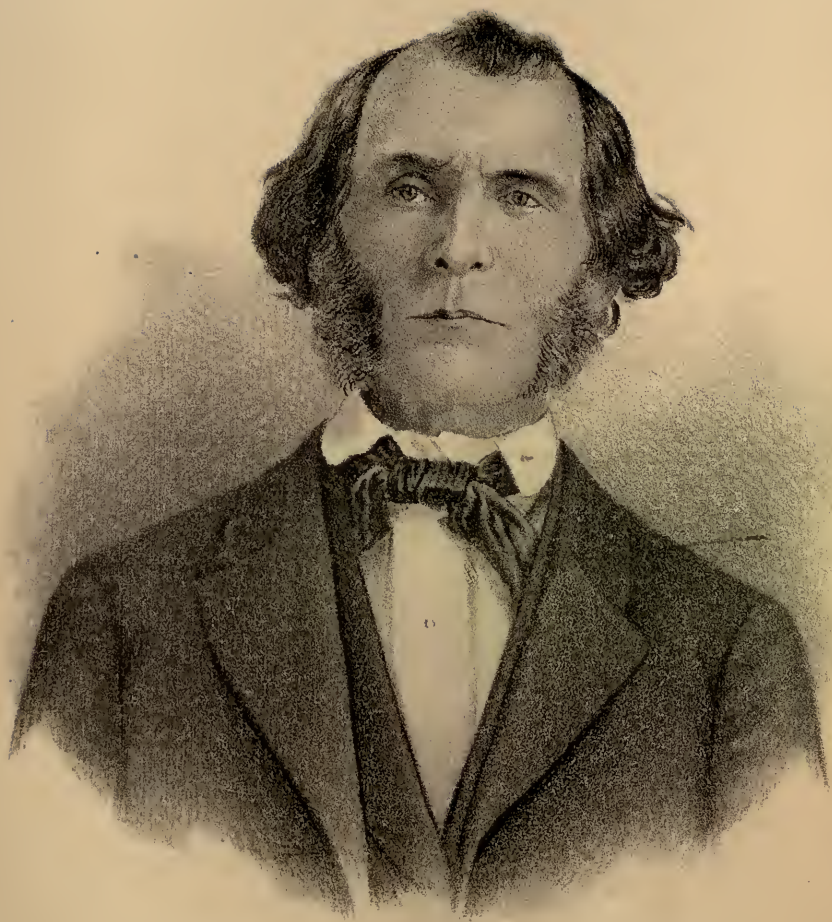
Samuel Lottinville, hardware merchant, Martinton, was born May 19, 1843, at Riviere du Loup, Canada. At the age of eight years, with his parents, he emigrated to Illinois, and settled in Iroquois county. He was one of the many on board the ill-fated steamer Atlantic, that was wrecked and sunk on Lake Erie, August 19, 1851. He was rescued from the sinking vessel the last minute before she went down. His parents and family were all saved, but lost everything they had except their night clothing. He lived with his parents, engaged in farming, till the time of his father's death in October, 1865. He was then by the county court appointed administrator of his father's estate. He continued in the business of farming and stock raising till 1874, when he removed to Martinton station and engaged in the mercantile business, in which business he is still employed. March 3, 1867, he married Miss Lucy Savoi. She is a native of Canada, and was born September 11, 1843. They have four children living as follows: Frederick E. A., George H. L. C., Nelda Celina and Joseph Ezra. In September, 1862, he enlisted in company K, 4th Ill. Cav. At the battle of Coffeerville, Tennessee, he was wounded, but remained with his regiment in all its active movements. He has filled the position of township clerk four years, and clerk of Martinton village board three years.

Winfield S. Yates, dealer in general merchandise, Pittwood, was born in Iroquois county, Illinois, April 11, 1852, and is a son of Thomas Yates, one of this county's early pioneers. His early youth was spent with his parents in this county, engaged in stock-raising and farming. His educational advantages, owing to the newness of the country, were very poor, but by a determined will and close application to his studies he acquired a fair education. January 30, 1872, he married Miss Nellie C. Lindsey, who was born at South Bridgewater, Massachusetts, October 2, 1852, and in early childhood came to what is now Kankakee, Illinois. Her father was one of the first to settle in that place, but soon after he removed to Iroquois county, Illinois. After Mr. Yates' marriage he at once engaged in farming and stock-raising for himself, which business he followed till March 7, 1879, when he removed to the village of Pittwood, in this county, and engaged in the general mercantile trade. Besides attending to his store he is acting agent for the Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railroad Company and the American Express Company. He has one child,



Thomas A., born May 30, 1875. Mr. Yates has lived here to see the steady growth and prosperity of this county.

Thomas Maggee (deceased), was born near Columbia, in the state of South Carolina, October 7, 1818. He lived with his parents until seventeen years of age, and assisted them as becomes a dutiful son. His father was a cotton-planter, and having acquired a thorough knowledge of this branch of agriculture, Thomas went to Alabama and for two years superintended there a cotton plantation. He then spent a year in traveling through the south with a view of finding a suitable place for settling permanently, but not being satisfied with the outlook went north, and finally concluded to try Champaign county, Illinois. Here he became interested in a stage line running from Danville to Pekin, and for three years devoted himself to staging. He next went into the stock business and continued at this for two years. This brings us up to the year 1842, when he married Miss Mary E. Brewer, of Champaign, and removed to Ottawa. The Illinois & Michigan canal was in course of construction at that time, and he engaged in building locks and dams, but he only spent one year at this, when he moved to Chicago, where he lived four years. He next located at Georgetown, Vermilion county, and in 1854 came to Iroquois and settled upon the land which he occupied at the time of his death. His first wife died in 1848. He was married the second time to Miss Mary A. Douglass, of Indiana, December 31, 1851. He has been treasurer of his township for twenty-five years, and for ten years has represented his town upon the board of supervisors; he has also been assessor and held other minor offices. He was the agent of George C. Tallman, of Brooklyn, New York, up to the time that Mr. Tallman sold his lands to Dr. R. B. M. Wilson, and has probably sold more land to actual settlers than any other man that ever lived in the county. Politically Mr. Maggee was a democrat, and for many years was a member of the county central committee. He was not an aspirant for office or honors, but a plain, straightforward gentleman, always ready to do his duty wherever placed. These peculiar habits and qualities pointed him out as a leading citizen, and while he was averse to putting himself forward for official trust or honor, he was frequently called upon to serve the people in a public capacity. He was really the organizer of Martinton township, and was the first supervisor for four years in succession from 1855 to 1860. He was again elected supervisor in 1874, and continued to hold the office up to the time of his death. He was put forward by his friends as democratic candidate for county treasurer in the fall of 1867, when the republican majority ran all the way from 1,500 to 2,000; and though he did not make any canvass of the county, yet he



Thos Maggee

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came within 450 votes of being elected, or, in other words, ran ahead of his ticket about 1,000 votes. A change of only 225 ballots would have placed him in the responsible position of county treasurer, an office that he would have filled with credit to himself and satisfaction to the people of both parties. The death of this excellent man, which occurred at his residence, in Martinton township, Friday evening, February 6, 1880, is most keenly felt by the people of Martinton, where he was best known; but not alone by these is his sudden demise lamented, but by everybody in the county whose sympathy is worth having,—the intelligent people who have known of his public services to the county. His confrères upon the board of supervisors especially will miss him, and deplore the decrees of nature which made it necessary for him to be taken from their midst. He was a model man and citizen, honest and conscientious, faithful to his trusts, charitable to the faults of others, one that commanded the respect and esteem of his fellow men. It is indeed a sad task to chronicle the death of such an one, and yet what a blessing the memory of such a man is! By his death a wife was deprived of an honored and faithful husband and protector, and seven children (five sons and two daughters) of a worthy parent. He was buried on Sunday, February 8, in the private family cemetery, about a quarter of a mile distant from his late residence. The funeral was a very large one. The services were conducted by Rev. J. M. Hooper, of Waldron. Mr. Maggee's estate comprises 600 acres.

Jacob Lyman, farmer and stock-raiser, Pittwood, son of Samuel Lyman, came to this county in 1837 from Stark county, Ohio, where he was born, January 24, 1832. His father settled in Middleport township, but afterward bought a farm in Sec. 25, T. 28, R. 13, in Martinton township. Jacob lived with his parents as long as they both lived, taking care of them as became a dutiful son. He is now living on and owns the old homestead, a farm of 182 acres, and is engaged in farming and stock-raising. He lived here and grew up with the country, witnessing its change from a habitation of deer and other wild animals to the highly improved state we find it in now, with railroads and towns, pastures and fields of golden grain. September 26, 1867, he married Miss Catherine A. Gibson, of Indiana, born January 1, 1846. They had two children: Mary E. and Martha May.

Souverian P. Frigon, farmer and stock-raiser, Beaverville, is a son of Simon Frigon, and was born December 25, 1850, near Montreal, Canada. At about five years of age, with his parents he came to Iroquois county, Illinois, and settled in Beaver township, where he lived

with his parents, engaged in farming and going to school in early youth. In his seventeenth year he began teaching school, which he followed four years. September 19, 1871, he married Miss Hercelia Dionne, who was born in Iroquois county, January 24, 1855. He has three children: Neld A., Melissa M. and Lucian J. April 11, 1872, he bought the farm on which he now lives, and engaged in farming and stock-raising, in which business he is still engaged. He now owns 235 acres of land, all earned by his own industry and close attention to business, managing his farm in a way that reflects credit on its proprietor.

Absalom O. Edison, farmer, Martinton, is a native of Ontario, Canada, and was born November 25, 1830. In 1839, with his parents he went to Chicago, where they remained two years, he, in the meantime, attending school. He then went to McHenry county, where he remained until 1850 going to school, and served an apprenticeship in a machine-shop. He was then two years engaged on the Mississippi river as an engineer and pilot. Afterward he went to Sparta, Wisconsin, and engaged in building and the manufacture of building material until 1856. He then removed to Iroquois county, Illinois, and after a short stay went to Nebraska, where he engaged to Major & Russell as wagon-master, carrying supplies to western forts, making one trip to Fort Laramie. He however soon returned to Iroquois county, Illinois, and permanently located in Martinton (Old Martinburg) and engaged in farming. In November, 1862, he married Miss Emily J. Homes, a native of New York. He has two children: Cyrus H. and Libbie S. He has filled the position of justice of the peace since 1868, and township assessor since 1873; highway commissioner since 1873; constable since 1875; school director since 1867; and school trustee since 1874.

Victor Peltier, postmaster, collector and justice of the peace, Martinton, is a native of Canada, and was born January 9, 1832. He lived with his parents till 1846, and in the same parish till 1850, engaged in farming in early youth. In 1850 he came to Illinois, and engaged in farming as a day laborer till 1853, when he went to Australia, and after an absence of three years, returned to Illinois, and settled in Iroquois county. He bought an interest in a farm, and engaged in farming till 1862. He then sold his interest in the farm and again bought land in Martinton, Iroquois county, Illinois. March 12, 1862, he married Miss Flora Faucher, a native of Canada. They have eight children living: Victor E., Peter S., Adonis E., Madoza D., Eglantine F., Joseph H., Orton S. and Norris J. He has filled the position of justice of the peace since 1866; township collector since 1864;

school treasurer since 1862; notary public since 1874; postmaster since 1875; and village clerk since the village has been organized. In 1861 he went to Pike's Peak in search of gold, and not being successful in that enterprise, he returned the same year. He now lives at his neat little home in Martinton.

Selden S. Peebles, farmer and stock-raiser, Martinton, was born in Lewis county, New York, February 18, 1832, and lived there with his parents till twelve years of age. He then, in company with his parents, came to Illinois, and settled in McHenry county, where he lived at home engaged in farming and attending school till eighteen years old. In 1852, with an ox team, he started from McHenry county for California via the plains, stopping one week in Salt Lake City to visit the Mormons, and arrived in Hangtown, California, September 17, of the same year, and at once engaged in mining. During his stay in California he engaged in mercantile business, as well as mining, making it a success, and at one time sent money enough back to his father (as a present) in Illinois to buy 160 acres of land, and in the spring of 1857 returned home by the way of the Isthmus, crossing the same by railroad, from Panama to Aspinwall, and arrived in Iroquois county, Illinois, April 19, of the same year, and engaged in farming and stock-raising in Martinton township, where he now lives following the same business. November 14, 1863, he married Miss Sarah J. Arnie, who was born in Winchester county, Indiana, May 24, 1840. He has six children living: Thomas W., Mabel, Florence, Chillus G., Earl and Reuben. He has filled the office of school trustee the last twenty years, highway commissioner six years, and school director many years. He owns 120 acres of land all earned by his own industry and close attention to business.

Charles F. Peirce, farmer and stock-raiser, Martinton, was born March 2, 1857, and is the son of Abial and Mary E. Peirce. His home is now at the old homestead farm, a place of 280 acres, which is now under his management. His taste is, however, rather for a mercantile life, for which his ability and education well fit him. He was married, April 12, 1879, to Miss Clara E. Goodfellow, who was born January 13, 1864, and is a native of Iroquois county. In his possession is the genealogical history of his family, from which the following quotation is made. We quote only from his father's birth, though the genealogy is complete as far back as the year 1623. Abial Peirce, No. 1,448, was born February 12, 1826; was married, April 15, 1856, to Mary E. Peirce, cousin, No. 1,451. He enlisted in the late war, August 21, 1862, as a private in Co. B, 32d reg. Iowa Inf.; appointed corporal, April 8, 1863, and sergeant, July 26, 1864. He participated in



ten battles. At Nashville, Tennessee, December 15, 1864, he was wounded, and was honorably discharged August 24, 1865. They had: 1,877, Charles T., born March 2, 1857; 1,878, Harriet, born March 27, 1859; 1,879, Mary, born July 13, 1860; 1,880, Ella, born January 30, 1863; 1,881, Abial, born May 14, 1868. Two children have been born to them since the completion of the record.

Joseph Johnson, farmer and stock-raiser, Beaverville, is a native of Ohio, and was born December 5, 1819. He lived with his parents, farming and attending school, till about the age of twenty-one. December 24, 1840, he married Miss Mary A. Cranston, who was born August 13, 1824, and is a native of Ohio. In the autumn of 1849 he went to Bloomington, Illinois, and in the spring of 1850 removed to Clinton, DeWitt county, Illinois, where he purchased the Union Hotel, and followed that business four years. At the same time he aided in the construction of the Illinois Central railroad. He then returned to his old home in Ohio, and engaged in farming and stock-raising till April, 1858, when he removed to Iroquois county, Illinois, and bought a farm on section 11, town 28, range 12, in Martinton township, and actively engaged in farming and stock-raising, in which business he is now engaged. He owns 480 acres of land, with the finest residence in Martinton township, all earned by his own industry and close application to business. He has eight children living: John B., Peleg P., Lewis C., Lydia E., Charles L., Adelia L., Mary A. and Joseph W.

John Scoon, farmer, Watseka, was born at Roxburghshire, on the Tweed, Scotland, in 1812, where his younger days were spent. He came to Allegany county, thence to Livingston county, New York, where he was engaged in farming. He removed to Illinois in 1856, remaining a few years at Twelve-mile Grove, and then came to his present residence. Of twelve children only four survive: James, lives in Iroquois township; William and Walter, reside in Kansas; and Lemuel, resides at home with his parents. John served three years in the 113th regiment, after which he returned home and married Miss Lucy Buchanan, and died soon after. Ira, who was also a soldier, during the war died from the effects of a disease contracted while in the service. Mary married Jonathan Lyman, and is dead. Eleanor (Mrs. Jones), Euphemy J. and Minerva are also dead. Mr. Scoon has always been a farmer.

George Schroder, farmer and stock-raiser, Papineau, is a son of Frederick Schroder, and was born December 13, 1829, in Prussia. At the age of fourteen he began for himself, hiring out as a farm hand by the year, and so continued till the age of twenty-five. At that time

his mind was turned toward the new world, and in 1854 he came to America and worked on a farm in Cook county, Illinois, till the spring of 1860, when he came to Iroquois county, Illinois, and engaged in farming, renting land for five years, after which he bought a farm of 120 acres in section 1, town 28, range 13, and permanently located in Martinton township, Iroquois county, Illinois, and engaged in farming and stock-raising. October 12, 1858, he married Miss Dorothy Schultz, who is a native of Prussia. They have three children: Minnie, Mary E. and George. His farm is well improved, well stocked and a sure evidence of his thrift and industry, and all earned by himself.

Warren Martin, farmer and stock-raiser, Martinton, son of Porter Martin, was born March 19, 1844, in Orange county, Vermont, where he lived with his parents, engaged in farming and attending school till the spring of 1861, when he came with them to Iroquois county, Illinois, and settled in Martinton township, and here engaged in farming and stock-raising. April 1, 1865, he enlisted in Co. H., 58th Ill. Inf. Vol., and remained with his regiment till honorably discharged March 31, 1866. He was married to Miss Hattie L. Adams July 21, 1866. She is a native of New Hampshire, and was born July 14, 1850. They have six children: Hattie M., Helen A., Cora A., Lottie A., John L. and Warren Leroy. He is now actively engaged in stock-raising, dairying and farming. He owns 105 acres of land, but occupies a larger farm.

Barna Martin, station and express agent, Martinton, is a native of Vermont and son of Porter Martin. He was born June 11, 1842. His early youth was spent with his parents attending school. In the spring of 1861 he removed to Iroquois county, Illinois, and engaged in farming. September 11, 1864, he married Miss Alice A. Dutcher, who was born in McHenry county, Illinois, July 15, 1847. He removed to Chebanse in 1869 and engaged in the harness and saddlery business, which he followed four years. He then removed to Martinton station and continued in the harness business for some time, but on account of his health being poor he gave that up and took the position of station and express agent on the Chicago & Eastern Illinois railroad at Martinton station. The station and township derived their names from his family name. He has four children living: Eva May, Abbie S., Guy M. and Frank E.

Frederick Schroder, farmer and stock-raiser, Papineau, was born in Prussia, May 8, 1842. His early youth was spent at school, three years of which was at college. In April, 1857, he left his native country and sailed for America, arriving in New York in May of the same year. He at once came to Cook county, and engaged as a farm hand

to his brother, near Chicago, for four years. He then came to Martinton, where he continued in the same brother's employ for eight years. At that time he bought a farm, and fitted up a home for himself, and became engaged in farming and stock-raising. April 17, 1870, he married Miss Catharine Landsman. She is a native of Germany, and was born July 16, 1851. They have five children living: John W., Louise M., Frank C., Emma F. and Hulda Matilda. He has now 290 acres of land in Sec. 1, T. 28, R. 13, all earned by his own industry and close application to business. He is now turning his attention to the raising of fine stock.

Joachim F. Schroder, farmer and stock-raiser, Papineau, is a son of Joachim Schroder, and is a native of Prussia. He was born October 10, 1825. His early youth was spent at home with his parents. In 1854, a more than ordinary business and enterprising turn of mind led him to America, and after a stay of about two and a half years, he returned to his old home in Prussia, and was married, on January 16, 1857, to Miss Mary Zeggel, a native of Prussia, and the following April returned to the United States, and settled in Cook county, Illinois, where he rented a farm and engaged in farming, and so continued three years. He then came to Martinton, Iroquois county, Illinois, and again rented land; continued farming and engaged in stock-raising to great advantage, a great part of the country being unoccupied for some years following. In 1868 he bought the farm he had rented the last eight years, and has made his permanent home here, and is still actively engaged in farming and stock-raising, making graded short-horns a specialty. He is turning his attention to stall-feeding stock on an improved plan that is somewhat after the old country principle. He now owns 260 acres of land in Sec. 1, T. 28, R. 13, all earned by his own industry and close attention to business. He has six children: Joachim H., Frederick William, Mary C., Amelia C. S., Caroline and Emma K.

Emilia (Marquis) Shaw, farmer and stock-raiser, Donovan, was born in Darke county, Ohio, January 7, 1821, where she lived with her parents till the age of fourteen years. She then removed with her parents to Tippecanoe county, Indiana, and there remained with them till January 4, 1838, when she was married to Mr. Alfred Shaw, a native of Indiana. She then lived in Warren county, Indiana, till in 1866, when she removed to Martinton township, Iroquois county, Illinois, her husband having died April 22, 1864. Here she bought a farm and engaged in farming and stock-raising. She was raised on a farm, and is thereby well posted in its management. She now owns 140 acres of land, and has eight children living: Moses F.,



Melissa J., Edna A., Marietta, Diantha, Jesse A., Solomon P. and Charley O.

James W. Kennedy, farmer and stock-raiser, Donovan, was born in White county, Indiana, June 5, 1845. At the age of twelve years, his parents both having died, he was obliged to take care of himself by working out and attending school till the spring of 1863. He then participated in the movement against the memorable Morgan raid, and August 8, 1863, enlisted in the 116th Ind. Inf. He was cut off from supplies in the winter of 1864, in east Tennessee, and suffered much hunger and hardship. He was discharged March 1, 1864, and again enlisted, October 18, 1864, in the 16th Ind. Light Artillery, and was stationed at Fort Corcoran, near Washington, and was discharged July 5, 1865, at Indianapolis, Indiana. February 28, 1867, he married Miss Edna A. Shaw. She was born in Indiana, October 1, 1845. In the autumn of 1867 he removed to Iroquois county, Illinois, and bought a farm in Martinton township, and permanently located and engaged in farming and stock-raising, which business he now follows. He owns now 100 acres of land, and has three children: Grace J., Theresa Cora and Bertha M.

Andrew Micholson, farmer and stock-raiser, Beaverville, was born in Denmark, January 8, 1830. His early youth was spent with his parents, engaged in farming and attending school till the age of twenty-two years, when he entered the Denmark Agricultural College, an institution under the authority of the king of that nation. He remained three years. He passed the examination after being there two years, and received the premium of \$600 for good character, integrity and honor, which placed him in a standing in his country to be trusted with any amount of money, his premium certificate bearing the king's seal. January 5, 1855, he entered the Danish army, and was discharged June 15, 1856. He then engaged as superintendent on a large farm two and a half years, and afterward engaged in the dairy and mercantile business, and finally bought a farm for \$3,200, and farmed till the war broke out between Prussia and Denmark, in April, 1864, when he was drafted in his country's service. After being discharged from service he was appointed by the king to fill a responsible office connected with the army, but he soon after sold his farm, and March 19, 1867, sailed for America, and settled in Iroquois county, Illinois. He engaged in farming in Chebanse township till 1874, when he removed to Beaver township, Iroquois county, Illinois. He bought 160 acres of land, and engaged there in farming and stock-raising. His farm is well improved, and reflects credit on its proprietor. February 24, 1859, he married Miss Mary F. L. Koed, who is a

native of Denmark, and was born January 30, 1830. They have one child: Hans Adolph.

Peter S. DeWitt, farmer and stock-raiser, Martinton, came from the state of New York, at about the age of thirteen years. He was born September 11, 1849. His first business in Illinois was that of weighmaster and book-keeper for the Chicago & Wilmington Coal Company, at Braidwood, Illinois, where he continued till the age of nineteen. He then went to Iowa and there contracted to furnish ties for a portion of the Iowa Central railroad, and after completing his contract returned to Illinois, and in 1870 (having previously, in company with his brother, bought a farm) engaged in farming and stock-raising. February 16, 1875, he married Miss Sarah M. Gray, who was born in Adams county, Illinois, October 9, 1855. In March, 1877, he removed to Iroquois county, Illinois, and bought a farm in Martinton township, and actively engaged in farming and breeding, and raising full-blooded Hereford cattle, having now the finest herd of that celebrated stock in this county. He owns 280 acres of land, well improved. He has two children: Helen E. and Perry N.

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## BEAVER TOWNSHIP.

Beaver forms the northeastern corner of the county, and embraces all of town 28, range 11 west of the 2d principal meridian, the fractional town range 10 west, and all there is in Iroquois county town 29, same ranges, making a parallelogram six and one-half miles wide along the Kankakee county line, and ten miles long along the Indiana line. The soil is fertile and deep along the southern and central portions, but that in the northern portion is much of it thin and rather flat. Nearly the entire township was originally prairie. The Beaver creek, here an inconsiderable stream, dry a greater portion of the year, had a narrow belt of oak timber along its northern bank half way across the town, and Bean Grove, near its southwestern corner, extended over into this town a little. The "Hubbard trace," known to all the inhabitants of eastern Illinois and western Indiana at an early day as the great highway of travel from Vincennes and all the Wabash valley to Chicago, ran nearly through the center of the township. It afterward became known as the state road, which gave the name to State street when it got to Chicago. Along this route, up to the building of railroads, travel passed between the southern settlements and Chicago. Thither the early pioneer hauled his wheat and oats, returning loaded with salt and

the few commodities which could then be found in the city of the lake. At first return loads were not expected, as the salt was procured at the Danville salt-works; but very soon that was superseded by the product of Syracuse. Not much in the way of goods came from Chicago in those early days. Sugar was made at home, or its substitute, honey, was on nearly every pioneer table; ready-made clothing and boots and shoes were unknown. The farmer took his slaughtered hides to the local tan-yard, and made up the leather over home-made lasts, and the farmer's wife and daughters made up the cloth from wool of their own shearing. Furniture and coffins were made up in each village by the local cabinet-maker, while such things as brooms, baskets and all wooden-ware were made in the cabin; tobacco was home grown. Thither, along this trace, the local dealers drove their hogs, cattle and turkeys to market. Along this road every few miles were taverns for the entertainment of man and beast. The tavern in this township, long famous as the "Buckhorn," was the first one north of old Buunkum, and was built by James Heanan and Fred. Woods, probably in 1834. Heanan soon after went away, and Lewis Gumphrey came in and kept it until Joseph Donovan bought it in 1847. This stood near the present village of Donovan, and where Mr. James Donovan now resides. Just north of this the Joliet road forked off, and going in a north-western direction, crossed the Beaver at Rakestraw's. Van Kirk kept the tavern where the Chicago road crossed the Beaver, about six miles north of the "Buckhorn," and Heanan had one in the sand ridges beyond. John Bean kept the house at Bean Grove, on the Joliet road. His tavern was not an extensive one, and was built about 1832. It consisted of three log houses, each  $16 \times 18$ , one story high, standing in the shape of an L. They were roofed with rived clapboards, and the chimneys, standing outside of course, made of sticks well overlaid with mud mixed with cut straw. The same material served to fill up the holes between the logs. The business of keeping public-house grew into monstrous dimensions until railroad building; and even up to 1860, it was not uncommon to count hundreds of teams a day in the fall. Not a tithe of them sought entertainment, however, for most of them went prepared to camp out. The township took its name from Beaver creek, and that from Beaver lake near by.

John Bean was the first settler. He came from Vermilion county in 1832, where he had lived a few years, and took up a claim on or near section 19, in the edge of Bean Grove. He was born in Virginia, and was brought up in Kentucky. He worked a farm and



kept tavern. The nearest mill was at Sugar creek, over in the edge of Indiana, and the only store known around here was at Bunkum. He was before coming here a member of the United Brethren church; and though there was no church of that connection here, and in fact for a long time none whatever, he maintained his faith to the last. He died here in 1857, and his wife two years later. They had nine children.

There were very few, if any, settlers in this township, except those mentioned as engaged in tavern-keeping, until about 1850. Of course no schools or churches were known. When Mr. Donovan came here to live in 1847, he taught school at Bean's Grove one or more terms, but the rising generation in Bean's Grove were forced to get along with very scant educational advantages.

Joseph Donovan bought the Buckhorn tavern in 1847. He came here from Rockville, Kankakee county, and continued to keep it as a public-house until his death in 1860. He had some boys who were early inured to work, and with the farm and the stand, business was plenty and they were prospered. Joseph Donovan left three sons: James, who purchased the homestead and tavern stand, and still remains on the place; and Thomas, who lives on a farm near by. John L. has been largely engaged in business enterprises of various kinds, and now resides in Watseka. He was engaged in mercantile business at Bunkum for some years, and carried on a considerable trade in cattle at the same time. He was thus engaged when the financial crash of 1857 made so many wrecks in business. John L. Donovan laid out the town of Donovan when the railroad was built, and the town of Martinton on the Danville road, and is now engaged in banking at Milford.

Quite a number of Swedes have settled in this township; have made farms; built two churches, and are now supplied with preachers in their own language. Most of them are farmers, but some have proved successful business men. The Swede population of Beaver are an educated and industrious class of people; are alive to all that tends to better their condition, and make excellent citizens. Mr. John Nelson is a representative man of that nativity. He has lived here fifteen years; is well posted; and has been repeatedly elected to important official positions. He is engaged in buying grain at Donovan. Before this portion of the country was settled up, John White used to keep a large herd of cattle on the prairies here. His practice was to gather up three- and four-year-olds; stall-feed them all winter, and then bring them out here when the grass was well up in the spring, and grass-feed till "fly time."

While this practice is entirely discontinued now, he made a success of it, and sent east some of the finest cattle that ever left the Iroquois.

M. G. Potter, from Orleans county, New York, came here in 1853, coming as far as Kankakee by rail. He had entered the land in section 28 (town 28) before. He now has 400 acres in this farm and two other farms.

Mr. Potter commenced raising cattle, and for several years followed raising winter wheat, which at first did very well, but soon had to be abandoned, though late years it has been fairly successful again. Great flocks of cranes used to come down on the growing crops and almost destroy them at times. Mr. Potter kept and grazed a considerable herd of cattle, and then commenced breeding and raising Norman horses. He met some heavy losses in this by a singular disease which carried off a number of them.

Mr. Boushier, Mr. Beisecker and Mr. Young came into the eastern part of the town the same year, and have all been largely identified with the interests of the town. Baldwin Lyman came here to live two years later. He was a stage proprietor in the east, and from the first took great interest in raising horses. He went to Onarga and formed the Importing Company, and went to France to secure the very best Norman horses he could find. He now lives at Onarga.

Artemus Perigo came from Ohio in 1855, and settled just north of Mr. Potter's. He is dead, and his son lives on the place yet. Matthew Shanor came about the same time and settled east. He and all his family are dead.

Foster Moore came into this portion of the country at a very early date. He says he has been assessor here, when his beat covered all eastern Illinois and a *part of Indiana*, though just how much of Indiana he had, the books do not show. His experience in husking corn down on the Wabash during the years of high water was fearful. "Shucking" ten feet under the ice is a "feat" which no one but a very old settler could successfully accomplish, and calls to mind the experiences of Jonah when he first settled in Nineveh. This was known as Union precinct before township organization. A post-office was established at the "Buckhorn" in 1858, called Donovan. Joseph Donovan was postmaster until he died, then James held the appointment two years; then M. G. Potter held it for about six years. After that a post-office was established at Beaverville, which was afterward transferred to St. Mary.

## CHURCHES, SOCIETIES, ETC.

The Christian church was organized about 1859, at Bean Grove, by Silas Johnson and Nathan Calcanberry. Services were held there with more or less regularity from that time until Donovan was laid out. Mr. Thomas Askew, the Weygandts, Mr. Hobbs and others were interested in maintaining the services. Elder J. P. Holloway, of Morocco, preached for a long time, and others occasionally. In 1875 the church was built at Donovan, 30×50, at a cost of about \$1,800, with a baptistry. It is incomplete yet. The membership is 75. A Sabbath school was organized in 1876, with Elder Poole as superintendent; E. F. Harris is the present superintendent. The average attendance is about 50.

The Methodist church was organized in 1875. It belongs to the Iroquois circuit. W. H. Smith is present pastor. Meetings were held first in the hall, but latterly in school-house. T. J. Donovan is class leader; preaching every alternate week; about 20 members. Sabbath school is maintained; average attendance about 40.

The Beaver Swedish M. E. church was built in 1860 and 1861, on the northeast corner of section 12, at a cost of \$1,600. It is 36×50, a plain, neat structure. It was afterward removed to southeast corner of section 14, to make it more central. Jonas Grant has been trustee and class leader for many years. There are about 100 members. A Sabbath school was organized in 1865.

The Swedish Lutheran church was built on the northeast corner of section 23 in 1872. It is 30×46, plain, and cost \$800.

The St. Mary Roman Catholic church was built about 1857 or 1858. A deed had been given, about 1850, to the Bishop of Vincennes, who then held clerical jurisdiction here, of 10 acres of land in the northeast quarter of section 5, for the purpose of building a church there, but it was never used for that purpose, and was deeded back. Services were held for a time in the residence of E. W. Myers, who lived a mile east of St. Mary. The building is 40×60, surmounted by an iron cross. Father Cota was the first priest. Until the building of the church at Papineau, all on this side of the Iroquois river attended here. Now there are about 60 families who are in the habit of worshipping here.

The Firmus Lodge, No. 626, I. O. O. F., was instituted November 1, 1876, by J. McClain, of Iroquois. The charter members were C. W. Poole, N. G.; J. W. Johnson, V. G.; C. A. Searight, secretary; R. G. Campbell, permanent secretary; M. G. Potter, treasurer. The present officers are M. F. Campbell, N. G.; George Duesler, V. G.; M. G. Potter, treasurer; R. G. Campbell, secretary; M. G. Potter,



lodge deputy. There are eight members; the lodge meets Friday night.

The Temperance League, a joint-stock company for the purpose, as its title indicates, of operating against intemperance and illegal selling of liquor, was organized October, 1879; C. A. Searight, president; E. F. Harris, vice-president; L. T. Hutchins, secretary; R. G. Campbell, treasurer, with an executive committee of five, through which the league institutes all prosecutions. Their mode of action is to enforce the law, and assessments are made upon members for the "sinews of war." It has been largely successful.

The land in this town sheds in all directions from an elevation through its center. A large portion of land in town 28 is in the hands of Swedes, who came here in large numbers some years ago, and appear to be still coming, and nearly all of it is owned by residents here. In town 29 considerable is owned by non-residents. Mr. Hogue, of Morris, Grundy county, has three sections, which is being used largely for pasture. The Messrs. Barton & Peck, of Kankakee, large cattle-dealers, own 1,000 acres in sections 25 and 26, upon which they keep cattle.

The Cincinnati, La Fayette & Chicago railroad was built across the township in 1872, by which route good connections are made with the Ohio river country, and with Chicago. Through rates east are secured, giving to the citizens of Beaver the best markets in the country. Grain is sent in either direction, and low freights are given on hay to the Ohio.

Beaver has never had a "ferry war" on hand to arouse its fighting propensities, or railroad bonds to litigate so that it is not popular browsing grounds for the lawyers; but a little "special act" in 1865 stirred up a firm protest. Under the loose system of legislation in vogue before the constitution of 1870 was adopted, nearly all law making was by special act, i.e. laws were passed to apply to only this or that county, township or school district, or some individual. As by the theory of our state government a legislature may do anything which is not prohibited in the constitution, our law-makers found warrant for many fearful freaks. In 1865 an act was actually passed requiring Beaver and Papineau townships to lay a tax to help build a bridge in Kankakee county. This act was certified to the board of supervisors. They consulted their attorney and promptly enjoined the levy of the tax, and our Kankakee neighbors have never attempted to enforce it thus far. The township was organized in 1857, by the election of W. B. Lyman, supervisor; M. G. Potter, clerk; Stephen Jessup, assessor; J. Beisecker, collector; L. Bousher and Thomas Barnes, justices of the peace. The pres-

ent officers are R. G. Campbell, supervisor; L. T. Hutchins, clerk; John Nelson, assessor; E. J. Barnland, collector; and E. Clark and Charles Lamb, justices of the peace. The voting population has increased from 35 in 1857 to about 250 in 1880.

The voting aid to railroads appears from the record to have been as follows: Three special town meetings, held in 1868, voted on various projects. May 28: The proposition voted for was to give \$20,000 to the Chicago, Danville & Vincennes Railroad Company, and a like amount to the Muscatine, Kewanee & Eastern railroad. The vote resulted in 4 for, to 111 against the scheme. At the meeting August 6, to vote on a proposed donation of \$15,000 to the Muscatine, Kewanee & Eastern railroad, on condition that the road be built within three years, and be built through on a line within half a mile of the center of the township, the vote was 43 for, to 24 against the proposed donation. September 12: The vote at a special meeting in regard to donating \$6,000 to the Chicago, Danville & Vincennes railroad, on condition the road should pass through the township, and a depot be built and maintained on either sections 27, 28, 33 or 34, resulted affirmatively. As neither one of these three separate propositions was ever consummated, Beaver township was never called on to issue any bonds, and has no railroad debt.

#### DONOVAN.

John L. Donovan laid out the village in 1872 on sections 28 and 29, about 40 acres in all, and later an addition on the east. Robb & Morton began buying grain; J. W. Johnson and E. J. Barnland began the mercantile business; John Nelson began the grain trade and mercantile trade in 1873 with Johnson; Thomas Detrick also engaged in buying grain; and J. M. Kinney engaged in keeping store. Mr. Johnson built the first dwelling. The first fire was the Barnland store, occupied by Gillaspie in the spring of 1875. A. Marshall built the elevator in 1874. It is now occupied by Capen & Co., who are also engaged in the grain trade in other places in the county. Risser & Daggett built an elevator in 1879. Thomas Hutchins was the first postmaster; then J. W. Johnson for several years; and L. T. Hutchins is now postmaster and express agent. The location of Donovan is beautiful as well as historical. It stands on the high ground where the great highway of travel divided: one road leading direct to Chicago, and the other was traveled by that great and increasing line of "movers," who were seeking homes in Wisconsin, northern Illinois and Iowa. The buildings of the little village are neat and pleasant. The business men, as the writer is ready to

acknowledge, are affable, courteous, and exceedingly busy. An utter stranger, he was accorded most generous attention and assistance from all to whom he applied for information.

#### ST. MARY.

St. Mary is located on the township line, between Beaver and Papineau townships, being a portion of it, including its post-office, church and depot, on section 31 of the former and a portion of section 36 of the latter. As has been previously stated, the old Beaver-ville post-office had been in this vicinity for some years, and the locating of the French church here naturally made it a center; and Heliadore Du Faut started a store here, which induced the transfer of the post-office in 1867, and called in some other business. The post-office has since been held by Edward Urch, W. H. Godfrey, Paul É. Gros, Levi Matthews and Godfrey Caillouette. Joseph Caillouette built the house (now occupied by his son Godfrey) in 1857, which was the first one built in the village. Joseph Gorman also built a log house on lot 5, block 4, where the store now stands. Mr. Ducharme had erected the two houses before alluded to on his farms; and two or three years later E. W. Myers commenced keeping store. Mr. W. H. Godfrey, for many years a justice of the peace of this township, opened up a grocery and notion store, where he now resides. For some years past he has carried on the undertaker's business. The railroad was built in 1871, and new business enterprises begin to take form. Oscar Kinney commenced the grain trade and continued it some years.

The town was platted that year on the land of Charles Arceneau, in section 31. He was required to deed each alternate lot to the railroad company's president, Adams Earl, in order to secure a depot. Since that the railroad addition has been laid out on the same section, and Du Faut's and Gorman's addition in section 36. F. X. Frasier's store was burned in 1872. As there seemed to be no way to stop the illegal sale of spirituous liquors, and no way to license such sale, it was decided in 1872 to incorporate the village. The records are not very complete, but from them it would seem that the incorporation was previous to July 1, 1872, as there are of record no minutes to show that the incorporation was under the authority of the county court. H. Du Faut was the first president; F. X. Frasier, treasurer; and Godfrey Caillouette, J. M. Kinney and Oscar Kinney, with them, the trustees. The present board is: O. Gorman, president; H. Lambert, treasurer; J. H. Gorman, clerk; and E. Francoeur, B. Regnier and F. Besse the other trustees.



## BIOGRAPHICAL.

Vermillion Bean, retired farmer, Donovan, is a son of John Bean, and was born in Vermilion county, Illinois, in 1829. At about three years of age, he came with his parents to what is now Beaver township, Iroquois county, Illinois. At the time he came here there were but two houses in this part of the county, one where Kankakee city now is, and the trading house of Hubbard & LeVasseur at Bunkum. He has witnessed the county pass through a great change, as it is now all under cultivation, a railroad passing within three-quarters of a mile of his farm. Growing up in this county when there were no schools, his education was of a necessity entirely neglected in his youth. He was engaged in teaming from Chicago to Bunkum. He was in Chicago when there were but a few business houses there, it being little larger than Bunkum, and not so old. August 9, 1856, he married Miss Lutheria M. Lee, a native of New York; she died January 26, 1876. He again married, this time Mrs. Diantha (Shaw) Merley, who was born in Indiana. He has two children: Charles E., by his first wife; and Olla Arnetta, by his last wife. He owns 300 acres of land in sections 29 and 30, T. 28, R. 11, and his home residence in Donovan, where he now lives. His farm is managed by his son.

George W. Moore, farmer and stock-raiser, Beaverville, is a son of Foster Moore, one of Iroquois county's early pioneers, and was born January 7, 1839, in Iroquois county, Illinois. His early youth till the age of twenty was spent with his parents; he then engaged in working out at farm labor till July 24, 1862. He then volunteered his service to his country, and joined Co. A, 76th Ill. Vol. Inf. He was at the siege of Vicksburg, and other hard-fought battles, and was severely wounded at the charge on Fort Blakeley, near Mobile, Alabama. He was then sent to the hospital, where he remained under surgical treatment until August 18, 1865, when he was discharged and returned home, where he suffered very severely with his wound for thirteen years. The government is rewarding him for his misfortune with \$18 per month pension. October 21, 1866, he married Miss Hester A. Decker, who was a native of Indiana, and died August 5, 1868. April 18, 1869, he married his second wife, Miss Emily Denton, who is a native of Indiana, and was born August 23, 1849. He has three children living: Minnie A., by his first wife; and Henry L. and George B. by his last wife. He now owns 160 acres of land, three and a half miles east of St. Mary, and is engaged in farming and stock-raising.

Thomas J. Donovan, farmer, Donovan, is a son of Joseph A.

Donovan. He was born in Mason county, Kentucky, February 1, 1827. When eight years of age he came with his parents to Illinois, and they settled in Vermilion county. There and in Clark and Will counties he lived till 1847, when he came with his parents to Iroquois county, and settled in Beaver township, being among the very first settlers in that part of the county, where he has since lived, engaged in farming and stock-raising. He says that when he came to Beaver township immense herds of deer and other wild animals roamed over the vast unbroken prairies, there being but one other settler's cabin in that part of the country, about four miles distant from where his father settled. October 24, 1856, he married Miss Mary Lyons, who was born in Vermilion county, Illinois, and died February 14, 1866. He has two children living: John L. and Charles W. October 26, 1868, he married for his second wife Miss Emma Hall, a native of North Carolina. She was born January 2, 1848. They have one child: Joseph A. On August 11, 1862, he volunteered his services to his country, and became a member of Co. E, 76th Ill. Vol. Inf., where he served three years, participating in all the movements of his regiment, except while in hospital three months at Jackson, Tennessee. He was honorably discharged. He has witnessed a great improvement in the county. His farm, containing 120 acres of land, is adjoining the village of Donovan.

James H. Sweeney, farmer and stock-raiser, Donovan, came from Putnam county, Indiana, where he was born January 24, 1840. He lived with his parents till about the age of eighteen years, engaged in farming. He began for himself by working out at farming till June 4, 1861, when he enlisted in Co. F, 25th Ill. Inf. He participated in all the movements of his regiment till honorably discharged, September 5, 1864. Having bought a farm while in the army, he now engaged in farming and stock-raising, which business he now successfully carries on. November 16, 1867, he married Harriet Richardson, who was born in Indiana. She died August 7, 1875; and April 19, 1877, he married for his second wife Mrs. Rachel M. (Lyman) Calkins. She is a native of Ohio; born December 11, 1843. He now owns 154 acres of land three miles southwest of Donovan station, all earned by his own industry and close attention to business. He has three children: John H. and Luther G. by his first wife; and Peter A. by his present wife. At the time he came to this township it was a vast unsettled wilderness, and deer and other wild animals roamed undisturbed. He now sees the fields of golden grain, the cars passing every day, and several towns in sight of his home.

Evlan Clark, farmer and stock-raiser, Beaverville, is a son of Quartus Clark, one of the early settlers in Beaver township, and its first school-teacher, and was born August 18, 1838, near Niles, Michigan. In 1850, with his parents, he came to what is now Beaver township, Iroquois county, Illinois, at that time there being but four families living in the township. His early education was of a necessity very much neglected, but he has by the aid of his parents acquired a fair education. In 1851 his father died, and on him devolved the responsibility of taking care of the family, which he did till he reached the age of twenty-two. December 9, 1860, he married Miss Clarissa E. Watkins, a native of Indiana, and born August 9, 1843. In 1862 he enlisted in Co. E, 76th Ill. Inf., and was engaged at the siege of Vicksburg and many other battles, including the charge on Fort Blakeley, near Mobile, Alabama. During his service he was appointed first sergeant, and was honorably discharged August 5, 1865. He then returned home and engaged in farming on section 10, town 28, range 11, and the carpenter business. In the spring of 1868 he moved to the farm he had previously bought, and actively engaged in farming and stock-raising, which business he still follows. He now owns 240 acres of land, all earned by his own careful management and industry. He has three children: Albert, Charles R. and Mary. He has filled the position of collector of taxes seven years, assessor two years, township school treasurer five years, justice of the peace one term, and school director many years.

Ephraim Pray, farmer and stock-raiser, Beaverville, was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, July 20, 1825, where he lived till the age of twenty-two years with his parents. He came to Illinois in 1847, traveled in this state and Wisconsin and Michigan, working in the three states till on July 14, 1850, he married Miss Mary D. Franceour, a native of Canada, and in 1852 came to Iroquois county, and permanently located in Beaver township, on section 32, town 29, range 11, and engaged in farming and stock-raising, in which business he is now engaged. At the time he settled here the country was a vast unsettled wilderness, his nearest market then being Chicago, by team over the old Hubbard trace, which passed within a few rods of his house. He has lived here to see a great change. The railroad passes over an adjoining section, and a town lies about two miles from his place. He has ten children, all living: William, Charles, Apollien, Mary, Alexander, Albert, Thomas, Emily, Liddie and Lucy. He has filled the position of school trustee for many years, and is now highway commissioner.



Jonas Grant, farmer and stock-raiser, Donovan, was born in Sweden, November 29, 1811. His early youth, till the age of fifteen, was spent at home with his parents, engaged in farming. He then began for himself, by working out as a farm hand, and so continued till September 29, 1837, when he married Miss Johanna Johnson, who is also a native of Sweden, and was born April 23, 1812. He then engaged in farming, renting a farm at first, but finally bought a farm on which he lived till August 30, 1852, and on that day sailed from Sweden for Boston, where he arrived all safe after thirty-days sail, and the following October he went to La Fayette, Indiana, but in the spring of 1853 came to his present home, in what is now Beaver township. He permanently located on section 12, town 28, range 11, and engaged in farming and stock-raising, in which business he is now successfully employed. At the time he came here the country was unsettled but by two families. Deer and other wild animals roamed undisturbed formerly, where now are vast fields of golden grain, and where the whistle of the locomotive can now be heard daily. He aided largely in building the M. E. church, and has done much in the way of education and improvement, being the safe counselor and adviser of the people. He has now five children living: John H., Swan W., Charlotte, Charles J. and Sophia. His two oldest sons served their adopted country in the late war, both being members of Indiana regiments. The daughters both married ministers.

Maltby G. Potter, farmer and stock-raiser, Donovan, was born December 11, 1827, in Genesee, New York. His early youth was spent with his parents, attending school and farming. November 15, 1849, he sailed from Boston on board the schooner Ruby around Cape Horn for California, arriving in San Francisco May 6, 1850. After a stay of eight months in California he went to Central America and Cuba, where he traveled for some time and then returned to New York, after an absence of two years. May 2, 1852, he married Miss Mahala Griswold, who was born in Rochester, New York, April 4, 1831. In the spring of 1853 he came to Illinois, Iroquois county, and at once entered the farm on which he now lives, on section 28, town 28, range 11, in Beaver township, and engaged in farming and stock-raising. At the time he settled on this wild prairie, there were but three cabins in sight, and the whole country was inhabited by deer and other wild animals. He has lived here to see the country all settled, a railroad passing over his farm, the village of Donovan built on part of it, and several towns in sight of his residence. He owns 520 acres of land, all earned by his own in-

dustry and close application to business. He has ten children living: Frederick A., George B., Inez A., Effie L., Jessie A., Minnie G., Lodema, Gertrude, Samuel M. and Edgar C. He has filled the offices of supervisor, four terms; township clerk, for many years; and school director since the school district was organized.

Orren G. Smith, dealer in general merchandise, Donovan, was born January 9, 1854, in Iroquois county, Illinois, and is a son of William Smith, one of this county's first settlers and business men. He has lived in this county since his birth, in early youth attending school, finishing his education by a term of one year at Cole's Commercial College, at Peoria. He then entered the railroad company's employ at Sheldon, Iroquois county, and remained in their service six years and three months as brakeman. He then engaged as clerk in a store at Watseka for eight months, and afterward traveled in Michigan and Kansas for a short time, and then bought out R. G. Campbell, and located in the village of Donovan and engaged in a general mercantile business. October 16, 1879, he married Miss Inez A. Potter, who was born in Iroquois county, October 1, 1857. He now owns, besides his store, a farm of 80 acres of land adjoining the incorporation of Sheldon.

Thomas Askew, farmer and stock-raiser, Donovan, was born in Westmoreland, England, in January, 1822. His early youth was spent with his parents, engaged in farming and attending school till May 6, 1846, when he married Miss Isabella Taylor, who was born in Westmoreland, England, November 24, 1825. He then farmed for himself till the fall of 1849, when he left his native country and came to America, and in the spring of 1850 engaged at farm labor in Kankakee county till about 1856, when he removed to what is now Beaver township, Iroquois county, Illinois, and there rented a farm and engaged in farming and stock-raising till March 9, 1859. He then moved into the first house he ever owned, having bought the farm and built the house a short time previous. He is now actively engaged in farming and stock-raising. April 9, 1879, his wife died on the place on which she so long lived and raised most of her family. He has eight children living: Richard G., John T., Dion A., Wellington C., Thomas E., Agnes E., Maud I. and George C. He owns 280 acres of land all earned by his own industry and close application to business. He has filled the office of justice of the peace since 1867, supervisor three years, highway commissioner and school trustee twelve years. He has lived here to see this part of the county pass through a great change. The Cincinnati, Chicago & La Fayette railroad passes within one mile of his house.

Asa F. Perrigo, farmer and stock-raiser, Donovan, is a native of Seneca county, Ohio, and was born April 16, 1838, and lived there engaged in farming and attending school till the summer of 1856. He then with his parents came to Iroquois county, Illinois, and permanently located in Beaver township, and engaged in farming and stock-raising, his nearest market for many years being Kankakee city. May 6, 1863, he married Miss Elmira, daughter of Aaron Hill, who is a native of Vermont, and was born December 17, 1848. He has two children: Eugene G. and Sidney L. He now owns 200 acres of land near Donovan station, and a house and four lots in the village of Donovan. His farm is well improved, and reflects credit on its proprietor. He has lived here and grown up with the country.

Mathew Haigh, farmer, Beaverville, is a native of England, and was born December 3, 1836. His youth, till about the age of twenty years, was spent with his parents attending school. His father was a weaver by occupation, and Mathew learned the trade, which he followed until he came to America. Soon after coming to this country he joined the army, and became a member of Co. H, 113th Ill. Vol. Inf., and served his adopted country three years in the war of the rebellion. After being discharged he returned to Iroquois county, Illinois, bought a farm of 160 acres in Sec. 9, T: 28, R. 11, in Beaver township, and engaged in farming and stock-raising. His farm is well improved, reflecting much credit on its proprietor, and is the result of his own hard labor, industry and close attention to business.

Andrew Johnson, farmer and stock-raiser, Donovan, was born in Sweden, October 22, 1821. Till about the age of eighteen years his time was spent at home with his parents, engaged in farming and attending school. Being of a mechanical turn of mind, he engaged at the carpenter and wheelwright business, and continued in that till about the age of thirty-two. He then came to America and settled in Tippecanoe county, Indiana, where he remained four years. On June 10, 1857, he removed to Beaver township, Iroquois county, Illinois. He bought a farm, and permanently located and engaged in farming and stock-raising, in which business he still remains, having been very successful. He now owns 540 acres of land, all earned by his own industry and careful management. June 23, 1853, he married Miss Sophia Johnson, who is a native of Sweden. He has three children: Emma M., John W. and Ida C. His son is now attending college. When Mr. Johnson came to his present home the country was very new and unimproved. He has lived



here to see the surrounding country all improved with railroads, and towns built up in all directions.

William McMahon, farmer and stock-raiser, Beaverville, was born in Warren county, Ohio, April 21, 1821. He lived with his parents till about the age of twenty-three years, engaged in farming and attending school. He then went into the clock trade for himself in the state of Indiana, and followed the business about fifteen years, and was very successful. On February 12, 1851, he married Miss Mary J. Rinker, a native of Indiana. He bought a farm of 320 acres, and farmed and raised stock about seven years. He then rented his farm and removed to Beaver township, Iroquois county, Illinois, where he bought his present home-farm, and actively engaged in farming and stock-raising, making it a success not equaled by many in the county. He now owns 1,192 acres of land, all except \$500 earned by his own industry and close attention to business. He is now raising and dealing largely in stock. He has five children living: Warren L., Lua Ellen, Ross, Franklin and Cora. He has never taken any interest in politics, and has been strictly temperate from youth.

William H. Godfrey, Esq., justice and collection agent, Beaverville, is a native of Connecticut, and was born August 7, 1827. His early youth was spent with his parents, farming and attending school till the age of sixteen years. He then began the carpenter business as an apprentice in New York, but completed his apprenticeship in Reading, Connecticut, and continued the business there till the age of twenty-five years,—the last two years being at the head of a gang of carpenters as superintendent. He then went to South Norwalk, Connecticut, and engaged in carpenter work for about three years; and then went west and worked at Cold Water, Michigan, Joliet and other places in Illinois. February 6, 1860, he married Miss Octavia Dubuque, who is a native of the province of Quebec, Canada, and was born July 5, 1831. August 2, 1862, he abandoned the carpenter business, and enlisted as private in Co. A, 129th reg. Ill. Vol. Inf.; January 13, 1863, he was appointed first sergeant. He participated in many battles and skirmishes, the most important of which was at Peach Tree creek, where he was hotly engaged about five hours. He was with Gen. Sherman on his memorable march to the sea in the fall of 1864, and was honorably discharged, June 8, 1865, at Washington, D. C. He then returned to Illinois, and located at St. Mary, Iroquois county, and engaged again at his trade of carpenter. He has four children living: Ada Ann, James H., Edmarica O., and May F. He has filled the office of school trustee six years; school

treasurer for several years prior to his being elected trustee; and justice of the peace.

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## PAPINEAU TOWNSHIP.

Papineau is situated in the northern part of the county, having Kankakee county for its northern, Beaver its eastern, Martinton the southern and Iroquois river for its western boundary. It is four miles wide by eight and a half long, containing all of town 29, range 12 which lies in this county, and that portion of town 29, range 13, which is in this county and east of the Iroquois river. Beaver creek, here a considerable stream, runs through its center from east to west, affording an abundance of water. Like all the towns in the northern portion of the county artesian water is reached, but the wells are seldom flowing ones. It was originally either covered with timber or had groves scattered over it, so that there was no scarcity of timber for all purposes which the early settler stood in need of. The soil is sandy, and is not so strong generally as that found in the western and southern portions of the county. The Chicago & Eastern Illinois, and the Cincinnati, La Fayette & Chicago railroads run across its eastern half, having the station of Papineau on the former, and St. Mary, upon its eastern border, on the latter. The peculiar advantage in reference to freight rates, with two such routes which cannot combine against the farmer's interests, is apparent. The former road gives direct communication to Chicago, and the latter to Cincinnati, Philadelphia and the east. Though grain purchasers are careful not to put up the price on one another, there must frequently be times when the demands of trade at the different great centers will offer to producers so situated advantages superior to others.

Points along Beaver creek early attracted the attention of the pioneer looking for a western home, where the grateful shelter of timber should protect him and his herds from the fearful wintry winds which now seem almost to have gone out of date in this region, or have migrated with the popular wave to Kansas. George Roush, though not the first settler in the western part of the town, was the first to establish any business there. About 1840 he began "keeping store" on section 26, just north of the Beaver. The store was one of the kind known to the early settler, and the only kind known where "dry-goods" and "wet groceries" were kept in magnificent confusion, solely for the convenience of the neighbors. The display of "store goods" was not very grand, but such staple articles of prime necessity, as tobacco,

molasses, codfish, hickory, shirting, powder and lead, Kentucky jeans, knitting needles, Godfrey's cordial, nails and Brandreth's pills were always in stock. It was a famous place for "the boys" to collect on Saturdays to try the speed of their horses and the effects of the only anti-rattle-snake-bite specific then known in this neck of timber.

A little incident is remembered, which it is surmised that Frank Brady was partially responsible for. It was before false faces of papier mache were so well known in the woods as to be readily recognized at a distance, that some one brought one from Chicago, and taking Mr. Goupil into training, turning his coat wrong-side-out, and fixing a good sized hump under it, with bells on his feet instead of spurs, it only required a steeple hat above the false face to convert the innocent Goupil into a hideous circus clown. When the crowd was in good cheer at the store the "stranger" made his appearance, marching up the road by zig-zags, evidently uncertain whether to come to the "meeting." Tom Wilson, an African by descent, but at that day contraband as to citizenship, rolled his eyes in wonder, and was sent out by the boys as an advance guard to find out who the stranger was. With true African superstition running through him, he failed to get near enough to the stranger to learn anything more than that he looked like a fellow he had once seen in a circus, and he reported accordingly. He was sent back, and this time learned that his view of the matter was correct, and that it was none other than Brown, whose wonderful feats had moved the African's mind to wonder, and that his visit here was to buy a horse. The boys told Tom to sell him his. Acting on the suggestion he led out his prancer, and, bragging every minute of his wonderful properties, helped the stranger to mount, and keeping up his continual boasting sent him on the road to try him. As soon as "the clown" was seated he took "French leave," and the idea soon penetrated the thick brain of Tom Wilson that a horse-thief had outwitted him. It now became necessary to let the crowd around the store into the secret to keep them from shooting Goupil, and they all united in urging Tom to rescue his horse before it was everlastingly too late. Every fellow had a fresh suggestion to make, and Wilson, who from that time went by the name of Tom Brown, found that the divided counsels of his neighbors did not help him much about overtaking the "thief." After the fun and chase had gone far enough, and the darkey had been led a fearful chase, Goupil returned and uncovered, but Wilson never heard the last of Tom Brown.

The sports of those days were such as were peculiar to the age and surroundings. Hunting, of course,—which has come to be known as sport, in name at least,—was as much an occupation as a sport in those





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times; but it was not common even then to class horse-stealing among the sports.

William Rakestraw, who lived on section 19, north of the Beaver, was long postmaster of the Democrat office. For some reason, which is not easily explained, the office was not kept at Roush's store, the most natural place for it. It is the suggestion of a neighbor that Roush did not like the name, which was understood to have been conferred on the office by Mr. Wentworth, who at that time was not only a democrat politically, but editor and proprietor of the Chicago "Democrat" newspaper. Allen Rakestraw (his brother) kept the tavern which stood on the Joliet road where it crossed the Beaver creek. When William sold out, about 1850, and removed to Aroma, Peter Lowe was appointed postmaster and kept the office some years, when he sold to Mr. Benjamin and moved away. About 1857 or 1858 Ezra David kept the store and the post-office, when the name was changed, and Democrat as a post-office name disappeared.

Henry Jones was the earliest permanent settler in this part of the township. He must have settled here about 1837. He had quite a large family. Four of his sons live in the town yet: William, Philip, Henry and H. C. W. H. Griffin lived, at an early date, on the creek in the northeast part of the town. His father, who was one of the pioneers, died there about 1851. His family now lives in Martinton. During the year 1855 occurred the terrible scourge of cholera which swept over this part of the country with fearful fatality. In this township nearly half of the settlers were taken away. Henry Jones' family suffered the most severely. Mr. Jones was obliged to make the coffins and bury part of his own family. Bradford Clark came to Beaver Creek in the eastern part of the town, where he still resides, about 1850. His brother (William P.) came at the same time, and Abram Otis settled on section 22 about the same time.

There was nothing like a general settlement of the township until the French Canadians began coming in, about 1850. The old settlement at Bourbonnais Grove, started under the pioneer, Noel LeVasseur, twenty years earlier, began to spread into this county before the Central railroad had given "Kankakee city" a local habitation. Peter Spink was pushing his land and emigration enterprises, which seemed to him so profitable for a time, and which really resulted in success to his followers, into the rich country where L'Erable now is; and others, attracted from their Canadian home, came in on this side of the river in considerable numbers. Immigration was stimulated by the building of the Central, and still more by the building of the roads which pass through Papineau. From this fact came the naming of the township.



These French people did not like the name of Weygandt. It was too decidedly Dutchy. The pronunciation of words ending in *ndt* was impossible to French lips. Papineau was a leader of the rebellion in Canada against the English government in 1837, and as such is looked upon by the French citizens as a hero not unlike old John Brown. That he was not successful does not deprive him of the veneration of those he attempted to lead. It is remembered of him that he rode through some of the principal towns of Canada, carrying a flag and calling on those who would be free from the English yoke to follow his flag. For this treason he barely escaped the gallows. Papineau was born October, 1786, and died September 23, 1871. The people who reside here, some of whom were admirers of the leader, decided to name this town after him. This rebellion in 1837 and 1838, through being aided by certain citizens of the United States, became the source of belligerent talk between the governments of Great Britain and this country. The destruction of the *Caroline*, by the murder of her passengers and firing and sending over Niagara Falls, followed by the arrest of McLeod for the crime, his defense by the attorney-general of the United States, and his acquittal, make one of the most exciting chapters in our country's history. (See Benton's "Thirty-Years View.")

One of the first, as well as one of the most influential, of these Canadian immigrants was Anthony Lottinville. With his family, consisting of wife and seven small children, he took passage on the ill-fated steamer *Atlantic*, for Detroit, in the summer of 1851. He had sold his farm there, and had with him his all, except some that was coming from deferred payments on his land, which fortunately he was not able to realize on. The steamer had some 600 passengers on board, and in the night, while all were in bed and nearly all asleep, a terrible collision occurred, and in twenty minutes the steamer went down, carrying all but 120 of her passengers. The scene during that twenty minutes of agony can never be described. The shrieks, the prayers, the moanings, and the hurrying to and fro of those hoping to escape impending death, can be faintly imagined. Women and children were partially saved by the ropes in the hands of strong men who stood upon the propeller which at once came to the rescue, only to drop into the water before they could reach the deck. In the panic and fright, unaccountably to himself, Mr. Lottinville succeeded in rescuing all his family, and in the thankfulness of his heart hardly mourned the loss of all his earthly possessions. He came forward to Bourbonnais, where the open aid of Noel LeVasseur, and his ever-ready purse, aided the rescued family in a strange land to get a comfortable start. It is said

to have been only characteristic of the old pioneer, whose recent death has called forth many expressions of remembrance of kindly acts on the part of the old man toward those in need. Mr. Lottinville came soon after to section 22, range 12, on the creek, where he took up half a section of land and built a frame house, the lumber for which he hauled from Chicago, fording streams swollen by the continual rains of that season. He hired forty acres broken, then with all his family "took the ague,"—a regular standby with new settlers in those days,—which shook them up for a year. This was one of the rainy seasons, which all pioneers recollect as occurring regularly each seventh year. For several years after Mr. Lottinville came here wheat was a good crop, and the demand for it was good from those then coming into the country. The acorns in the woods served the hogs well, and hogs always brought cash once a year, so that farming prospects were good, but there was no school for ten years. His children had had but slight opportunities, the older ones in schools in Canada, and that only in French-speaking ones. Here they never got a day's schooling except in the rough school of pioneer drudgery. That the five sons, who are known throughout the county as the Lottinville boys, are everywhere recognized as among the best educated and most correct business men in this portion of the county is due alone to their own native strength of character and versatile tact. They have for years been entrusted with the official business of the township, and, as will be seen by the record, of the village, and have been continually the business men of the place; and in conversation show a breadth of acquaintance with general history and affairs of the country which marks them as educated men. The aged parents died about 1866. They had been the parents of sixteen children, several of whom, however, died during their childhood. Three of the brothers married sisters, two of whom have already presented twins to doting fathers. The value to a new country of such a family, as settlers, is difficult to estimate with the data at hand.

Joseph Delude came here about 1850, and built a log cabin on the bank of the creek. He was deluded with the notion that the Beaver would make a very valuable water privilege. He dammed the creek and built a saw-mill on it. It was one of those old-fashioned gate saws, that go up in the spring and come down with the fall freshets. He soon damned the stream and mill both, with a slight variation in the spelling and accent, and sold out to Moses Langelier, who still resides there, and returned to Bourbonnais.

In 1857 Mr. Ducharme came from Bourbonnais and bought two farms in the southeastern quarter of section 36, range 12. He built log houses on the farms, and his sons came here to live.

The Methodist church, known as the Boucher or Switzer church, was commenced in 1867 and dedicated in 1871. It is about 30 x 50, and cost about \$3,300. In 1873 it was removed from its foundation by a hurricane, but otherwise was but little damaged. It was replaced at a cost of \$350. John Switzer was class-leader, and after him M. E. Posson. The present membership is eighteen. At the time of the organization of this township the name of Weygandt was given to it, receiving its name from a numerous family of that name living here. Martinton was cut off in 1858, and the name was changed to Papineau in 1863. The first supervisor of Papineau was Thomas Maggee; clerk, E. M. Hammond; assessor, A. Bender; collector, William Thompson; magistrates, S. S. Green and S. S. White. The present officers are: William Jones, supervisor; C. F. Lottinville, clerk and collector; George Ducharme, assessor; and W. F. Risley and Joseph Langellier, magistrates.

In 1856 thirty-three votes were cast in favor of calling the town Pike Creek. In 1858, by reason of a division of the township, and the principal officers residing in the southern portion of the township, there was no election held, and the board of supervisors appointed at its next meeting the township officers. August 25, 1868, a special town meeting voted, by 47 to none, in favor of a tax for the Chicago, Danville & Vincennes Railroad. August 8, 1870, a special town meeting voted 67 to 34 in favor of donating \$6,350 in bonds to the same railroad, on condition that a depot should be located and permanently maintained in the town. The bonds were issued, and have since been litigated, and the payment of the interest on them enjoined in consequence of a decision of the supreme court on a case which was so similar as to warrant the belief that the same rule would apply to this case.

#### PAPINEAU VILLAGE.

When the railroad was built, there was some question about what the town would donate, and the company did not locate the depot, and the town plat was not laid out, until the following spring, 1871, when Dr. D. K. Cornell and Mr. Hay, who owned about half a section in T. 28, laid out 60 acres of the north half of the southeast quarter into blocks and lots. Dr. Cornell was a physician here, and now resides at Taylorville. Mr. Hay resided at Nashville, Illinois, and died there. In the fall of 1870, however, Rice, Lottinville & Co. built a depot for the company north of Beaver creek, and erected a set of scales there and commenced buying corn and live stock. They purchased 190,000 bushels of grain that winter. The next spring the depot and business was moved here. Savoie & Barney put up the



first building to keep store in. It stands on the corner north of the post-office. They carried a general stock of goods, and were assisted by Mr. Charles F. Lottinville, a young man of excellent natural abilities, aided by considerable experience at Cairo and other places. This firm continued in business a year. The next store was built by Hubert Lepage on lot 6, block 6. He put in a stock of goods, but soon sold to Barney & Co. Dr. Wagner commenced business and carried it on a while, and is now engaged in keeping hotel and in insurance. Oliver Barney engaged in mercantile business in 1876. Thomas Lottinville bought Savoie's interest in the store in 1874, and in 1876 Charles F. and Henry, his brothers, entered into a partnership with him, which has proved successful and has continued. Charles is postmaster and carries on the drug trade. Philip Kaufman opened a store in 1874, which he sold the following year.

William E. Stone bought grain here during the first year, and was succeeded the next year by Massy, Letourneau & Co., who continued the grain and lumber trade for two years, when Mr. Comstock put up the warehouse and extensive cribs. W. F. Risley, from Joliet, commenced the same year to buy grain for Simon & Co., and continued until 1875. Rosenberger & Co. bought grain for a time, and Mr. Pape became a partner for one year. C. F. Lottinville was appointed postmaster first in 1871, and served three years. Mr. Risley succeeded him two years, then Joseph Langellier two years, when Mr. Lottinville was again appointed. This was made a money-order office July, 1879. D. K. Cornell was first physician. Dr. Critzer, the present physician, is county coroner.

Papineau was incorporated under the general act in 1874. Under the first election F. Langdoc was president; John Massy, Ezra Savoie, Octave La Plante, A. P. Shipley and Thomas Lottinville, trustees; C. F. Lottinville, clerk; and Joseph Laveaux, treasurer. The present officers are: Thomas Lottinville, president; Ezra Savoie, Theodore Englebert, Frederick Tegg, Anthony Goyette and Milton Froge, trustees; C. F. Lottinville, clerk; Henry Lottinville, treasurer; E. P. Shipley, police magistrate; and A. W. Froge, constable. The school is in charge of Mr. S. H. Byrns, a very successful teacher.

The Roman Catholic Church, a neat and substantial structure, 30×55, was built in 1872, at a cost of about \$1,200. It is yet unfinished internally. It suffered a partial removal once, having been blown from its foundation in a severe gale. Rev. Father Rouquier, of St. Mary's, and Rev. Father Lettellier, of St. Anne, have in turn ministered to the people here, but they have no resident priest.

## BIOGRAPHICAL.

David N. Lowe, farmer and stock-raiser, Kankakee, was born at Covington, Indiana, November 23, 1827. He is a son of Peter and Julia A. Lowe, and came with them to this county in 1834. They settled near Mount Langham, in what is now Kankakee county. His early youth was spent with his parents, engaged in farming and stock-raising, the country at that time being very new and sparsely settled. His advantages for education were very limited, yet he has become sufficiently educated to do an immense business in his line. He is truly one of our self-made men, beginning with nothing and now owning 800 acres of very valuable land in this county and some in Nebraska. He raises and deals in large numbers of cattle yearly, and has made the breeding and raising of graded short-horns a specialty the last few years. February 24, 1859, he married Miss Martha J. Pruett, daughter of Meredith Pruett, late of Iroquois county, and immediately located on his present home farm, on Sec. 14, T. 29, R. 13, which is now one of the finest in this part of the county. His success has been equaled but by few in this part of the state. He has seven children, all living: Flora M., Lloyd W., Bell A., Perry B., Melvin M., David N. and Mary Leonora. His political principles are republican, but he takes no active part in politics. He has been strictly temperate from youth.

Philip Jones, farmer and stock-raiser, Papineau, was born in what is now Papineau township, Iroquois county, Illinois, March 28, 1839. He is the first person born in the township that is now living in the same, and is a son of Mr. Henry Jones, the first settler and pioneer of the township. His early youth was spent with his parents, engaged in farming and stock-raising and attending school, though his advantages for education were very limited; yet by the care of his parents, the aid of a teacher hired by subscription, and a determined will, he acquired a good common-school education. He was one of the first to attend the first school taught in the township of Papineau,—Miss Dilly being the teacher. June 4, 1861, he volunteered his services to his country, and became a member of Co. F, 25th Ill. Vol. Inf. His first engagement with the enemy was at the battle of Pea Ridge. From that time on he participated in much hard fighting. He was wounded at the battle of Stone River by a ball entering the corner of his mouth, coming out of the back part of his cheek, and was honorably discharged September 5, 1864. On May 2, 1867, he married Miss Margaret, daughter of Mr. Thomas Sammons, one of the early pioneers, and fourth sheriff of this county. She was born November 1, 1844, in what is now Kankakee county, Illinois. He has one child,

William Henry, and owns 100 acres of land (a part of the old farm on which he was born), and is engaged in farming and stock-raising. He is one of the true men of which his neighbors should be proud.

Fabien Langdoc, farmer and stock-raiser, Papineau, whose portrait appears in this work, was born March 24, 1830, in Papineauville, Canada. He is a son of Joseph Langdoc, formerly a member of the house of representatives of Canada. He lived with his parents, engaged in farming, till 1850. He then came to Illinois and settled in Papineau township, Iroquois county, and engaged in farming and stock-raising. January 7, 1851, he married Miss Margaret Miner, a native of Canada, who was born July 8, 1831. He had sixteen children, ten living: Joseph, Victoria, Victor, Josephine, Salem, Arcade, Albert, Fabien T., Samuel and Saul. He has filled the office of supervisor one term, county coroner two terms, and school treasurer eleven years. He owns 240 acres of land, and commenced in Illinois with \$2.50. He is a gentleman of ability, integrity and honor, and was never known to waste time or money in anything.

Henry Lottinville, dealer in general merchandise, Papineau, came to Illinois in 1851, being then about two years old. With his parents and their family he was almost lost by shipwreck on Lake Erie, August 19, 1851, while on board the steamer Atlantic, which sunk on that date. He was rescued the last minute before she went down. His early youth was spent in Iroquois county, Illinois, with his parents. He was deprived of the advantages of education, as the country was new when he came to this county; but a determined will secured him a fair education. February 6, 1865, he enlisted in Co. K, 147th Ill. Inf., and served one year. He then engaged in farming for others, but in 1868 bought a farm, and in 1870 engaged in farming and stock-raising, and followed that business about six years. He then sold his farm and engaged in the mercantile business in the village of Papineau, as one of the firm of Lottinville Brothers, in which business he is now engaged. January 6, 1872, he married Miss Georgiana Boulle, who is a native of Canada. He has two children: Eugene and Josephine.

Thomas F. Switzer, farmer and stock-raiser, Waldron, Kankakee county, was born in Ross county, Ohio, June 25, 1823. At the age of six years he came to Warren county, Indiana, where he lived with his parents, engaged in farming and stock-raising, that part of the country then being very new and very few white settlers. He was deprived of the advantage of education, but by the aid of his parents and his own determined will he obtained a fair education. April 20, 1851, he married Miss Margaret Connor, a native of Indiana, and on



the next day started for Iroquois county, Illinois, with an ox-team and wagon, with all his worldly effects, and after three-days travel arrived in what is now Aroma township, Kankakee county, Illinois, at that time it being Iroquois county. His farm now joins the Iroquois county line, where he preëmpted government land and engaged in farming and stock-raising, which business he now follows, making it a success not equaled by many in this part of the state. At the time he settled here his nearest market was Chicago, where he has hauled corn a distance of seventy-five miles and sold it for twenty-five cents per bushel. He has hauled wheat from Warren county, Indiana, to Chicago, a distance of 150 miles. December 12, 1862, his wife died, and on July 2, 1865, he married his second wife, Mrs. Susan Hall, who is a native of New York, and was born June 15, 1830. He had five children: Casandra J., Martha E., Americus, Thomas B. and Bertha A. He owns 740 acres of very valuable land, all earned by industry and close attention to business. Since 1867 he has turned his attention to the breeding and raising of full-blooded short-horn cattle. He is a member of the M. E. church, and aided largely in building the Boucher Chapel. He has been strictly temperate from his youth.

Thomas Lottinville, merchant, Papineau, son of Antoine Lottinville, was born at Riviere du Loup, Canada, March 20, 1840. He lived there till 1851, when with his parents he removed to Papineau, Iroquois county, Illinois. His first year in Illinois was spent clerking in Bourbonnais and St. Anne. After that he engaged in farming with his father, and so continued till 1862. He then married Miss Dilema Savoie, who was born July 31, 1842, and was a native of Canada. February 10, 1865, he volunteered his services to his country, and became a member of Co. K, 147th Ill. Inf. He served one year, returning home February 10, 1866, and again engaged in farming till 1868, when he sold out and moved to Kankakee city, and returned again in 1869 to Papineau. The village at that time was located, and he engaged in the grain business, putting up the first scales and buying the first load of corn bought in the town. In 1873 he engaged in the mercantile business, in which he still remains. He has filled the office of assessor six years, constable seven years, and president of the village four years. On his way from Canada he was shipwrecked on Lake Erie while on board the steamer Atlantic, August 19, 1851, and was rescued from the sinking vessel the last minute before she went down, losing all he had but his night-clothes. He has four children; Flora, Adeline, Mary and Nellie.

Arthur W. Frogge, dealer in lumber and coal, Papineau, was born in Iroquois county, Illinois, April 2, 1852, where he still lives. During



*Fabien Langlois*

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his youth he remained on the farm with his parents, engaged in farming and going to school. October 30, 1873, he married Miss Sallie C. Clark, of Iroquois county. They have one child, Inez. In November, 1877, he located in Papineau, and engaged in the lumber and coal business. His father, Mr. Arthur R. Frogge, was born January 14, 1811, in Kentucky. During his early youth he lived a short time in Tennessee. In 1851 he came to Iroquois county, Illinois, bought a farm and engaged in farming and stock-raising. He has six children: Ellen, Milton, Sarah, Arthur W., Benton and Frank. He now lives in the village of Papineau, and is quite smart for a man of his years.

George Ducharme, farmer and stock-raiser, St. Anne, was born in Montreal, Canada, July 24, 1832. After living near where he was born thirteen years, with his parents he came to Chicago, and there remained about eight years attending school. April 9, 1852, in company with his brother he started for California with a team via the plains, arriving in Hangtown, California, August 9 of the same year. After a stay of about two years he returned home by the way of the Isthmus, crossing at Nicaragua, arriving in Chicago October 13, 1854, bringing back \$1,200 in gold. In the autumn of the same year he removed to St. Anne, Kankakee county, Illinois, and about a year later removed to Iroquois county, and settled and built the first house where St. Mary now stands. Having bought a farm he engaged in farming and stock-raising, and so continued eight years. He sold his farm there and again bought land, this time in the northeast part of Papineau township, in section 15, town 29, range 13, where he now lives engaged in the business of farming and stock-raising. He now owns 240 acres of land all earned by his own careful management and industry. February 5, 1855, he married Miss Delphine Fancher, who is a native of Canada, and was born October 15, 1841. They have nine children: Delia, David, Levi, Sophia, Flora, Ida, Ellen, Philip Louis and Egla. He has filled the office of school trustee since 1864, collector seven years, assessor five years, and commissioner of highways two years. His health has been so broken down the last fourteen years as to render farm labor to him impossible.

Philip LaPlante, farmer and stock-raiser, Papineau, was born near Montreal, Canada, August 18, 1838, where he lived till about the age of thirteen years. With his parents he then removed to Clinton county, New York, where he engaged in a nail factory and attended school till about the age of sixteen years, when he removed with his parents to Illinois, and two years later he settled in Papineau township, Iroquois county, and engaged in farming till August 5, 1862. He enlisted as private in Co. D, 76th Ill. Inf.; November 28, 1862, he was appointed

first sergeant; May 27, 1864, sergeant; and July 22, 1865, was commissioned by his excellency Richard J. Oglesby, governor of Illinois, to the position of second lieutenant, and was finally discharged with his regiment after participating in the battles of Talahatchee, Vicksburg, Jackson, Tennessee, Jackson cross-roads and the siege and charge on the Blakeley batteries near Mobile, Alabama. He then returned home and engaged in farming and stock-raising in Papineau township, Iroquois county, Illinois, in which business he is now engaged: In the spring of 1860 he married Miss Flavie Gaudreau, a native of Canada, who died in November, 1862. December 16, 1865, he married Miss Josephine, daughter of Mr. Moses Langellier. She is a native of Canada, and was born August 5, 1839. He has three children: Florence E., Irena A. and Lionel C. He owns 160 acres of land two miles northeast of Papineau village.

Charles Ezra Savoie, farmer, Papineau, a native of Riviere du Loup, Quebec, Canada, and son of Mr. John Savoie, was born November 17, 1837. He lived there till 1847, when with his parents he removed to Illinois and settled in Bourbonnais Grove, Kankakee county, where he lived with his parents, engaged in farming and stock-raising and attending school till 1855, when he came to Papineau, Iroquois county, and again engaged in farming and stock-raising. December 8, 1860, he married Miss Melena Mercier, a native of Canada. July 27, 1862, like other patriotic men, he volunteered his services to his country, and became a member of Co. D, 76th Ill. Inf. After eighteen-months service he became disabled by sickness and was transferred to the Invalid Corps, and July 3, 1865, was honorably discharged. After his return home he again engaged in farming, in which business he is still employed. He has filled the position of commissioner of highways the last fifteen years, and village trustee since the organization of the village of Papineau. He has five children living: Delia, Hattie, Ezra, Lucy and Adalore. He owns eighty acres of land in and adjoining the village of Papineau, all earned by his own industry.

William S. Jones, farmer and stock-raiser, Papineau, is a native of Meigs county, Ohio, where he was born January 2, 1834. He came to Illinois in 1837 with his parents, his father being the first settler in Papineau township, their nearest market for many years being Chicago by team via the old Hubbard trace. January 17, 1856, he married Miss Hester A. Canady, who was a native of Ohio, born January 19, 1834, and died June 18, 1864. Mr. Jones again married, December 15, 1864, Miss Mary Canady, who is a native of Illinois. He has six children: Eugene and Philip, by his first wife; and Calvin, Addie Bell, Leon and Albert by his last wife. He is now acting supervisor of

Papineau township, and is engaged in farming and stock-raising. He owns 170 acres of land. He has sound business principles, and has won for himself many friends. He is also engaged in buying and shipping fat stock.

Hugh McSweeney, farmer and stock-raiser, Papineau, was born in Tippecanoe county, Indiana, March 13, 1843, where he lived till eleven years old. With his parents he then removed to La Salle, Illinois there going to school till the excitement of the gold discoveries at Pike's Peak. He fell in with the tidal wave and went west, but returned in 1858 and settled with his father in Iroquois county, Illinois, and engaged in farming. In the spring of 1861 he enlisted in Co. I, 20th Ill. Inf., but after eight-months service, on account of sickness, he became disabled and was sent to the hospital at Chicago, where he remained unable for duty till the winter of 1863, when he was discharged. He then again engaged in farming as a hired hand till August, 14, 1864. He married Miss Harriet Jones, of Iroquois county, who was born October 24, 1844. He has eight children : Charles H., Sarah E., William E., Hugh, Olla, Peter R., Eugene and Wilbur. He now owns a home of 160 acres of land, the reward of strict economy and industry, in Sec. 35, T. 29, R. 13.

Christopher S. Guthrie, farmer and stock-raiser, Papineau, is a son of Henry P. Guthrie, of Ohio, and was born December 22, 1838, at Mount Pleasant, Jefferson county, Ohio. At the age of eight years he moved with his parents to Wheeling, West Virginia, but soon after returned to Ohio and lived with his parents till 1857, when he came to Kankakee, Illinois, in company with a Mr. Hoyle, bringing with them the first steam threshing-machine ever introduced in this part of the state. January 1, 1862, his patriotic impulses induced him to offer his services to his country, and he joined Co. E, 53d Ill. Inf. He was stationed at Chicago guarding rebel prisoners, under Col. Mulligan, for some time. From there he went direct to Shiloh, and participated in that memorable battle and the advance on Corinth. He was actively engaged from there on in many battles and skirmishes, till July 12, 1863; in the charge on Jackson he was captured by the rebels, and endured the horrors of prison life in all the principal prisons of the south, at one time paying twenty-five cents for one ear of corn, and was finally paroled at City Point, Virginia, in October, 1863. He was after that ordered with Gen. Sherman, and participated in his great march to the sea, and was finally mustered out of service at Goldsboro, North Carolina, in March, 1865, and returned to Illinois and engaged in farming and stock-raising. December 25, 1865, he married Miss Mary J. Warden, who was born in Greencastle, Indi-



ana, in 1844. They have five children: Frances I., Henry W., James B., George C. and Malinda C. He owns 160 acres of land, all earned by his industry.

August Lottinville, farmer and stock-raiser, Papineau, was born at Riviere du Loup, Canada, where he lived till about the age of ten years. His parents at that time came to Illinois. An incident occurred on their way from Canada which must here be mentioned. August 19, 1851, the steamer Atlantic collided with a schooner on lake Erie, and the former sank soon after. The family, however, were all rescued the last minute before she went down, losing all they had but their night-clothes. Coming to a new country in his youth, he was deprived of the advantages of education, but a determined will overcomes obstacles of every kind, and he acquired a fair education. September 21, 1861, he volunteered his services to his country, and became a member of Co. K, 4th Ill. Cav. He was engaged in the battles of Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Corinth and many others. August 1, 1862, he was appointed fifth sergeant, and honorably discharged November 3, 1864. April 22, 1866, he married Miss Josephine Paradis, a native of Canada, born March 1, 1847. In 1865 he bought the farm on which he now lives, and engaged in farming and stock-raising, which business he now follows, about half a mile north of the village of Papineau. The farm comprises 160 acres of land, all earned by his own industry and hard labor. He has five children, as follows: Ida, Anna, Cora, Georgiana and Adalore.

Andreas Streigel, farmer and stock-raiser, Papineau, son of Sebastian Streigel, was born in Baden, Germany, October 20, 1828, remaining at home with his parents and learning the trade of cabinet-maker till twenty years of age. He was then drafted to serve three years in the army, which he did with credit. June 20, 1853, he married Miss Kathrena Billharz, who is a native of Baden, Germany. In the winter of 1854 he left his native country and sailed for America, and landed in New York April 24, 1854. He worked one year at his trade in Boston and Cambridgeport. In April, 1855, he came to Illinois, bought a farm in Kankakee county and engaged in farming, in which business he continued till August 5, 1862, when his adopted country needed his services, and he volunteered and became a member of Co. F, 76th Ill. Inf. He served his adopted country faithfully, as he did that of his nativity, three years, and was honorably discharged, July 22, 1865. He lived in Kankakee city till April, 1867, when he came to Papineau, Iroquois county, Illinois, and bought the farm on which he made his present home. He immediately engaged in farming and stock-raising, in which business he is still successfully employed. He

has six children living: Frances, Kate, Albert, George A., Edward, and one infant.

L. W. Critser, M.D., physician, Papineau, was born January 13, 1827, in Bartholomew county, Indiana. With his parents he soon after removed to Warren county, Indiana, and there attended school till the age of twenty, when he went to Tippecanoe county, Indiana, and engaged in school-teaching three years. He then attended the High School at Greencastle one term, and again engaged in teaching till February 3, 1853. He married Miss Rebecca Parker, who was born January 13, 1835. He then went into mercantile business till 1862. He then began the study and practice of medicine under Dr. Ogborn, till 1868, when he removed to Iroquois, Illinois, where he is still engaged in the practice of his profession. He graduated in 1878 at the Eclectic Medical Institute, at Cincinnati, Ohio, and in the same year was elected coroner of Iroquois county, which position he now fills. He has three children living: Hattie A., Katie I. and William L.

William T. Hiser, farmer and stock-raiser, Papineau, was born in Warren county, Indiana, January 13, 1844. He lived with his mother till the age of fourteen, when he came to Iroquois county, Illinois, and lived with his uncle, engaged in farming and going to school. In July, 1869, he bought a farm in Papineau township, on which he now lives actively engaged in farming and stock-raising. January 9, 1870, he married Miss Sarah E., daughter of Mr. John Dugan, who was born in Ohio in 1847. They have four children: Nellie, Frank, Eva Maud and Eva May. He owns 358 acres of land all in one farm, and has it well stocked and improved. His careful and close attention to business secures him remarkable success. He takes no interest in politics, neither has he ever been known to waste time or money in anything intemperate.

Alexander P. Shipley, farmer and gardener, Papineau, was born January 28, 1826, in White county, Illinois. He lived there till seventeen years old, when he removed to Washington county, Illinois, and there engaged in mercantile business, and so continued till 1860. He then engaged in milling in a steam flouring-mill, in Richview, in the same county, till 1865. He then went to Cairo, Illinois, where he remained till 1870, when he came to Iroquois county, Illinois, and settled in Papineau township, and engaged in farming and gardening, which business he still follows. He is justice of the peace and commissioner of highways. In 1849 he married Miss Mary A. Bingham, who died March 12, 1864. He was again married October 28, 1866, to Mrs. Martha Phillips. His children are: Georgiana H., Eliza and Bell, by his first wife; and Adelbert and Abba by his present wife.

Narcisse Gaudreau, farmer, St. Anne, Kankakee county, is a native of St. George, Canada, and a son of Fabien Gaudreau. He was born May 22, 1841. At the age of six years he with his parents came to Illinois, and settled at Aurora, Illinois, but four years later came to Iroquois county, and permanently located in Papineau township and engaged in farming. November 17, 1863, he married Miss Mary Tatrot, a native of Canada. In July, 1872, he bought the farm of 160 acres on which he now lives, and is engaged in farming and stock-raising. He has made all his property by industry and close attention to business. He has six children: Ismeal N., Henry W., Samuel, Henry, John and Frank. He is a quiet, unassuming citizen and neighbor. He has filled the office of township clerk for three years, and school director many years.

Samuel H. Byrns, lawyer, Papineau, a son of James Byrns, one of the early pioneers of this county, was born October 4, 1846, in Kankakee county, Illinois. His youth was spent at home farming and stock-raising and attending school. At the age of twenty he went to study law at the law school of Ann Arbor University one term, and then went to Chicago Law School, where he finished his course, and engaged in the practice of his profession in that city. In 1875 he returned to his old home, and for awhile engaged in farming. In the autumn of 1877 he located in the village of Papineau, and engaged in school-teaching, in which profession he is still employed. In April, 1872, he married Miss Lena Wadley, daughter of Mr. Case Wadley, the oldest settler in this part of the state, coming here in 1826. He has one child, Walter Herbert.

Henry Jones, the first settler in Papineau township, was born in Meigs county, Ohio, January 17, 1811, and died May 24, 1859. On March 23, 1835, with his wife (Sarah Hester), and their infant son, (William S.), Seth and Hepsabah (his parents), two brothers, three unmarried sisters, Jephtha Hayman (a son-in-law of Seth Jones), Ophania (his wife), and two children, Hamilton Jefferson, his wife and ten children, twenty-six in all, he embarked at Graham's station, near his home. They floated down the Ohio, and forced their boat up the Wabash to Tillotson's ferry, where they arrived May 8. On the 10th they reached Georgetown, Vermilion county, Illinois. The next season Henry Jones and his father, with Jefferson, made a trip to Spring creek and the Iroquois river. The subject of this sketch located on fractional N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 34, T. 29, R. 13 W., and his father a short distance from him. In 1837 they moved their families to the cabins prepared for them. His first wife, Sarah, to whom he was married February 7, 1833, was born June 10, 1811, and died February 6, 1853.



Their children were: William S., Philip, Harriet and Sarah E. On January 6, 1854, Mr. Jones married Maria Sammons, who was born in Montgomery county, New York, February 10, 1833, and emigrated with her parents, Thomas and Sarah, who settled at Sammon's point, near the Joneses. Henry C. was his youngest son. By his industry and good management Henry Jones accumulated a large property, consisting of over 500 acres of valuable land, and left a good farm for each of his sons. Being a man of uncommon energy and thrift, his neighbors consulted him on all occasions of importance. At an early date he commenced keeping medicines, and for years the sick of the neighborhood thanked him for relief. He made boots and shoes for his family and many others, working on the bench at night. In fact, he was a kind of universal genius. He never learned a trade, but like his father could make anything, from a spinning-wheel to a house. His own buildings were evidences of his skill. In 1847 he hauled lumber from Chicago and built a large barn, doing all the framing himself. He was a man greatly respected and honored by all who knew him.

Henry C. Jones, farmer and stock-raiser, Papineau, is a son of Henry Jones (one of the pioneers of this county), and was born December 25, 1856, in Papineau township, in this county. When he was about three years old his father died, and he was left to the care of his affectionate mother, who also died when he was about eighteen years of age. She was a daughter of Thomas Sammons (deceased), who came to this county in 1836 or 1837, when she was three or four years old. His early youth was spent with his mother in the old home, engaged in farming and attending school until the death of his mother. He then went to Kenosha, Wisconsin, and attended high school about two years, when he returned to his old home and engaged in farming and stock-raising, in which business he is now actively employed. He now owns, besides his stock, 150 acres of valuable land, and is a sharp, energetic young man.

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## ONARGA TOWNSHIP.

BY M. H. MESSER, ESQ.

In the original division of the county into political townships Onarga embraced all of town 26 north, of ranges 10 and 11 east and 14 west of the 2d principal meridian, and four tiers of sections in town 27 through the same ranges, making a territory twelve and three-quarter miles east and west, by ten miles north and south. In 1861 two tiers of sections of T. 25, R. 10 E., Secs. 1 and 12; R. 11 E., and Secs. 3 to 10 inclusive

in same town. Ranges 14 west were taken from Loda and added to Onarga, and the north boundary was changed to the line five and a half miles further south, commencing at the quarter corner on the west boundary of Sec. 12, T. 26, R. 10 E., and running east to the corresponding corner on the east boundary of Sec. 12, T. 26 W., R. 14 W. In 1864 the south boundary was changed to the half section line, through the first tier of sections in T. 25 N., ranges 10 and 11 E. and 14 W. Another change was made January, 1879, when the town of Ridgeland was organized from territory in the west part of it, leaving the boundary as follows: Commencing at the quarter section corner between Secs. 11 and 12, T. 26 N., of R. 10 E., thence east on the half section line to the quarter corner on the east boundary of Sec. 12, T. 26 N., of R. 14 W., thence south to the southeast corner of T. 26, R. 14 W., thence west two miles, thence south to the quarter corner between Secs. 2 and 3, T. 25 N., of R. 14 W., thence west on the half section line to the center of Sec. 2, T. 25 N., of R. 10 E., thence north on the half section line to the center of Sec. 35, T. 26 N., of R. 10 E., thence east to the section line, thence north to the place of beginning. The records of the September meeting of the board of supervisors, 1879, show the west line was straightened so as to run on the half section line from the center of Sec. 11, T. 26 N., of R. 10 E., south to the center of Sec. 2, T. 25 N., of R. 10 E. The legality of this last change is questioned.

Spring creek enters the town by three branches in the southwest part, and leaves it near the northeast corner. Shave Tail from the south unites with it in the east part of the town. When the first settlers came there was a fine body of timber along the stream. The land is of good quality; that portion east of the creek is not surpassed in the county, while that on the west side is a little lighter, a sand ridge extending through its entire north part.

Long before the white man traversed the wilds of Grand Prairie, the Indians hunted the deer, the elk and buffalo on its grassy plains, fished in the streams flowing through it, and had their camps and villages on their banks. Their trails leading from point to point on the streams, and from grove to grove, were common and well defined. The one from the mouth of Sugar creek to Kickapoo (Oliver's) Grove, crossed the creek in section 12, then along the north side of the timber over the site of D. K. Thomas' dwelling to the round grove, thence near the northwest corner of S. H. Harper's farm, then south of the beaver swamp to the highest ridge in the village of Onarga, thence west on the highest land to the northwest quarter of section 19, where it left the county and continued to the grove. G. S. Hubbard was over



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(DECEASED.)



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this route as early as 1822, and he says at that time it was nearly abandoned by the Indians. Save the United States surveyors, who were here May 15 of that year, Hubbard is the first white man known to have been in this town. The Indian camping grounds were designated by the remains of their wigwams and the bluegrass growing at the places. There were several of them. The lone tree in Sec. 28, T. 26, R. 10 E. was a great resort in certain seasons; the numerous springs near by made that neighborhood a place for deer and elk to come for water. Here at an early day there were several acres well set in bluegrass, and July 4, 1839, Samuel Harper and T. M. Pangborn, with their sickles, cut several bundles of it for the seed. At Del Rey was a sugar camp used by them in 1834, and several wigwams were there in good condition when the first settlers came on the creek; west of the Pierce farm were camp-poles and wigwam bark. The Pangborn grave-yard is on the other of them. About a quarter of a mile east of this was one of similar character, camp-poles and holes in the ground being at the latter place, a few rods northeast of the east end of Pangborn bridge; at round grove, and on the creek bluff, southeast of the latter, all three on section 16, and another, the last, on the east bank at the crossing on section 12. On the sand ridge where the trail passed over blocks 19 and 20, of the village of Onarga, was the only camping ground out of the timber. At this place numerous poles for wigwams, quantities of bones, both of animals and fish, and parts of brass kettles were found; and three years since a stone spear head, seven inches long, was found two feet below the surface, in front of M. H. Messer's dwelling. A silver bracelet was found by Daniel Wiswell near the basin, and M. H. Messer found a part of a pistol on his lot. In June, 1834, the last band of Indians, thirty or forty in number, were on Spring creek; they were seen by Amos and Miller to cross near W. A. Boswell's and go toward Kickapoo Grove.

The Butterfield trail, the second great thoroughfare through the county, over which all the early settlers on Upper Spring creek came, crossed at the gap on Sec. 13, T. 25, N. of R. 10 E., turned abruptly north, toward Philip Reed's dwelling, then straight to the west side of the big bog at John Lehigh's, along its west border, where the road now is, crossed one branch of the creek at H. Lyons', the other near Boswell's house, then to the point of timber a quarter of a mile further north, then northeast on the north part of B. F. Lindsey's farm to E. Doolittle's south dwelling, to S. H. Harper's, (the road past his house is the old trail) then through C. S. Pangborn's farm, and to the big slough about a mile west of the creek, on the Toledo, Peoria & Warsaw railroad, then to a point a half mile east of the Barden Farm,

in Sec. 24, T. 27, R. 14 W., where it turned north. Ben Butterfield looked out this route from Lockport to Danville in April, 1831, on his way from the former to the latter place. (See description of this trail in county history.) Prior to Butterfield making this trail, and as early as 1829, Enoch Van Vickle, of Vermilion county, came to this neighborhood hunting bees; the early settlers of that county often came for that purpose. Samuel Copeland, of Blount township, same county, informed E. S. Ricker, in 1879, that Solomon Kooder was on Spring creek in the fall of 1832, hunting bees, and discovered a vast quantity of them, most all through the timber; the ground was covered with acorns, and wild artichokes grew in great abundance along the skirt of the prairie. Kooder reported the fact to his neighbors. Samuel Copeland, Evart Van Vickle, his two sons, Enoch and Benjamin, David Reeiz, William Rees, William Wright and Lewis Swisher, immediately drove 300 hogs to this creek to fatten. Copeland, Van Vickle and his son Benjamin rode the whole length of the creek, crossed at its mouth, and back to their camp on the other side, and saw no hogs or any signs of them. Some of the owners came frequently to look after their property, and when fattened, they drove them away. There were a few left, and for the three succeeding years the same men hunted their winter pork in this timber. At this time, the fall of 1835, they sold their interest in the hogs on Spring creek to Lindsey and Lehigh, and after this they were common property for all the settlers. In 1826 Hubbard brought hogs to his farm at Bunkum; some of them soon became wild and stocked the timber along the streams, and doubtless they strayed to Spring creek. As early as 1829 wild hogs were found near Pigeon Grove.

The first settler in the present limits of the town, or anywhere along the creek, was Jesse Amos. He had been living on Sugar creek for a year or two, and in 1833 was with the Indians a part of the summer and fall, near the present town of Del Rey. Early in the spring of 1834 he moved his family, consisting of his wife and three children, and made a claim on the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 36, T. 26 N. of R. 10 E. Their first habitation was made by the Indians. It consisted of poles and bark; was about ten feet long and eight wide, closed at the sides and west end; the east end was open, and faced a large burr-oak log, against which Mrs. Amos built the fire and did the cooking. Tom Lindsey and John Miller pointed out to the writer this log, on the 24th of March, 1880. The limits of the wigwam can now be traced; there is a small ditch at the western end, leading south, to carry water away. About eight rods west of this log was their well—it can be readily recognized. That fall he sowed about one acre of rye in this natural clearing, and



for many years it was known as the rye-field, or patch. In the latter part of the season he erected a cabin further west, and near the edge of the timber where the old frame house, built by James M. Smith, now stands. It was built of small logs, such as could be readily handled without *calling* on his *neighbors*, who were twenty miles away. This claim he sold to James Smith, in the fall of 1834, for \$300, and built a cabin on the south bank of Amos creek, at its junction with the south branch of Spring creek, where he made a second claim. In a year or two he made another dwelling southwest of the second, where William Hollingsworth's young orchard is. At his new home he had a hand-mill for grinding corn; the burrs were procured of William Pickerell. This mill he had as early as 1836, and probably in 1835. A few years later he procured a pair of burrs much larger than the first. These were arranged to be run by horse-power, and are now in the possession of John Miller; they are twenty-three and a half inches across. Settlers came to this mill to grind corn, when prevented going to water-mills from thirty to sixty miles distant. Mr. Amos' family consisted of Rachel, his wife; Betsey, who married Moses Lacy (this was the second wedding on Spring creek), and lived on the bank of the creek where plastering sand is now obtained. It was east of Amos' last dwelling. Rebekah, the second daughter, married Blanchard Freeman. She died at John Miller's, at twenty-two years of age. Wilson, the only son, died June 12, 1847, aged twenty years. Spico was born at their last home and went with her parents when they moved to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in the fall of 1848. Lacy had moved to that place before 1840.

The second settler, John Miller, was born in West Virginia, February 12, 1801. He married Peggy Stewart, November 2, 1826, in Bath county, same state, and on April 7, 1831, arrived with his family in Covington, Indiana, where they stopped till the spring of 1834. In May of that year they started for Fox river, and arrived at Amos' on the 17th. Amos had preceded him about a month. Liking the location, Miller made a claim of his present farm, and at once built a shelter about fourteen feet square, of thin puncheons split from lynn and walnut, fastened to poles. This shelter was open on one side, but in it they lived two seasons, returning, however, to Covington the first winter on account of sickness in the fall. The first spring he broke about five and the second about twenty acres, and the latter year raised a good crop. Miller came with four good horses, and the second time he brought from Covington three cows. George Kirkpatrick helped drive them through. In the fall of 1835 he moved into a comfortable log cabin (destroyed by fire February 13, 1868), converting the first

shelter into a stable. Kirkpatrick left with Philip Procus for Milwaukee early in the fall, and returned to the Wabash next winter. George Procus worked for Miller and Lehigh the same season. On Miller's land there was a wigwam in good condition; his horses fled to it for shelter from the green-head flies. Near it was an oak log under the side of which the Indians had hid their brass kettles. Amos bought and took them away. Miller paid him \$1.50 for one. By trade he was a wagon-maker, and did repairing for himself and neighbors. His family at that time consisted of his wife, who died February 5, 1840, and four children. Miller is hale and hearty, and lives with his third wife. Frontier life snits him.

Ira Lindsey, Jonas Smith (James, his son), and J. B. Grice, left West Virginia, September 10, 1834, and by wagons arrived at Perrysville, Indiana, in fifteen days, where Lindsey's family stopped with Abram Lehigh, an old acquaintance, and Smith's went to Grand View to Jonathan Wright's. The men made an extensive trip into Illinois to select land. Lehigh had left the same place in Virginia a few years before, and concluding to emigrate with his friends, he accompanied them in search of a new home. They traveled over much of the north part of the state, and not finding places to suit them turned toward their families, and following the Butterfield trail in that direction, brought them to Amos'; liking the place as it then appeared in its natural state, and finding the timber better than elsewhere, they concluded to stop. Lindsey made his claim on the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 36, T. 26, R. 10 E., where B. Frank Lindsey and his mother now live. James Smith bought the claim made by Amos, and Lehigh made a claim to lots 5 and 6, N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 1, T. 25, R. 10. Jonas Smith, an old man, sixty-six years of age, lived with his son; J. B. Grice was a single man, and neither of them took land. Lindsey and Lehigh at once built cabins for their families, and the Smiths went on to Grand View. Lindsey by mistake built his cabin on Smith's claim; it stood a few rods southwest of the brick house which he built in 1843. Lehigh located his on the bluff south of the passenger house at Del Rey. Grice helped build both cabins. These preparations being made they returned for their families, and November 4, 1834, Lindsey moved into his new home. Smith reached his a few days sooner, and in March, 1835, Lehigh, with his son William G., Mary and Alvira, and a hired man (Merideth Print), with an ox-team moved from Perrysville to the new home. As soon as the children were well settled Mr. Lehigh returned for his wife and the other children. Mrs. Mary Harper says it was a long and anxious seven weeks before father, mother, and the smaller children arrived. In the meantime the young folks

had made about a half-barrel of maple sugar. Lehigh had secured his timber land and at once made another claim on lots 4 and 5, N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 2, and moved into a new cabin, where H. Lyons now lives. The next winter Mr. Lehigh went to Indiana to work at teaming, and in April, 1836, word came to his wife that he was dangerously sick. She, on horseback, with Frederick A., about six months old, (the first white child born on Spring creek, August 14, 1835,) in her arms, and her son William, made the trip (sixty-three miles) in a day and a half. Her husband was speechless and died in an hour after her arrival. Mrs. Lehigh always thought he recognized her. Thus early in the efforts to secure a home was she left a widow, with a family of eight children. A neighbor woman said of her: "She did nobly; her judgment and management are seldom surpassed." The farm was paid for and the family kept together, and received all the advantages a new country affords. She died March 28, 1860, at fifty-eight years of age.

Jonas Smith was a well educated man and a most excellent surveyor; he had been employed on some of the United States land surveys in Arkansas, and was the first county surveyor, and held the office till 1839. He died March 22, 1843, at seventy-five years of age.

James Smith was a genial, whole-souled gentleman, full of energy, and did all he could to develop the country; he had a clearer and a more comprehensive view of its future than any other man in the county. He died September 24, 1839, thirty-two years old. At his house was held the first election in Spring creek precinct in the fall of 1835. The judges appointed by the county court were Levi Thompson, Ira Lindsey and John Johnson. The precinct was bounded as follows: Commencing at the mouth of Beaver creek, then west to the county line, south to southwest corner of the county, then east to the west boundary of Sugar creek precinct (about on the line between ranges 13 and 14), then north to the northwest corner of Sugar creek precinct, east to line between ranges 12 and 13 west, north to Beaver creek and down it to its mouth. Smith was road supervisor for this whole territory, and one of the petit jurors for that year. The last of this family has passed away and not one of their descendants remains.

Ira Lindsey had considerable means, and entered a number of choice tracts of timber which he sold to those who came in after years. In 1843 he built a brick house, now the residence of Mrs. Boyd; also a large frame barn. The pine lumber in both was purchased in Chicago and delivered at his farm at a cost of \$10 per thousand. The bricks were made close at hand by Lorenzo Dow Northrup, at a cost of \$4 per thousand, and were laid by Joseph B. Dean; Seneca Amsbary and



his father (Hamlet) did the carpenter work on both buildings. This was the first house, other than log cabins on the creek, and the bricks were from the second kiln made here. He was justice of the peace, and officiated at the wedding of R. B. Pangborn and Margaret Harper. This was his first effort in that direction, and he was more frightened than they. After this he was often called upon for similar official acts. He was the first grand juror from this precinct; in May, 1836, he paid \$9 into the county treasury, fines he had collected. He was one of the jury that tried Joseph Thomason for murder, and hung the jury three days, the evidence being circumstantial. He was one of the leading men in the settlement.

James Martin, an Irishman, was a character that must not be overlooked. Martin drove a team from Virginia for Lindsey, worked for him for two years, then for Ayers till about 1846, when he married Hannah Gillite, a widow. This man was one of "the four or five men" who rowed the boat that took Commodore Perry from his sinking flag-ship Lawrence to the Niagara, at the battle of Lake Erie. He died about 1848, and was buried in the Lehigh grave-yard. No monument marks this hero's grave.

Jonathan Wright came in the fall of 1835. His family, Rachel his wife, and Charlotte, who married John Paul, of Sugar Creek, Louisa, Nancy, Noah, Joseph and Benjamin stopped with his son-in-law, Smith, that winter, and the next year opened the farm where Philip Reed lives. The first wedding on Spring creek was that of Louisa Wright with Jacob A. Whiteman, of Bunkum, in the summer of 1836. After her death he married Nancy.

In the spring of 1835 Col. James Frame, his wife (Mary), three sons and three daughters; George Whitfield Rounsaville, his wife (Mary), a daughter of Frame, came from Indiana, and built their cabin near the center of the east half of N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S. 16, T. 26, R. 14 W. They brought a hand-mill, which was much used by the neighbors for grinding corn; it was the second mill on the creek. In 1836 Rounsaville moved to Plato and kept a boarding house when the steam mill was being built; they soon returned and commenced a farm, near Frame's, on the same section. Rounsaville died in 1857; one son was killed at the battle of Shiloh, and the widow soon after the war moved to Kansas. Thomas Frame, one of the three sons, was in Danville on December 19, 1836, and entered the northwest quarter of the S. W. of Sec. 15, T. 26, R. 14; on his way home the next day was frozen to death; he was buried on his late purchased land. This was the fourth death. James Frame, Jr., erected his first cabin on the same land in about 1842. To obtain fire when they first came, Rounsaville carried a tea-kettle of coals from Lindsey's,

five miles. Jacob Knoyer and Jane Frame were married about April 5, 1840; the snow was about a foot deep, and the visitors went in sleds. The second election was held at Col. Frame's, the first Monday of August, 1836. Levi Thompson, Jacob O. Feather and the Colonel were appointed judges by the court; two of them being absent, Ira Lindsey and Hamilton Jefferson filled their places. James Smith and Jonathan Wright were the clerks; there were present and voted besides these: John Miller, Jesse Amos, Joseph Wright and Jedediah Darby. Jonas Smith, Thompson and Feather were the other three voters in the precinct.

James McKuhn, a native of Kentucky, came to Miller's in the fall of 1836, and died in about two months; this was the third death. William Whiteman settled on the Hull Farm in 1836, remained there about two years, when he sold to George L. Conn. Whiteman went back to the Wabash, and in a few years to California.

In the early part of May, 1836, Thomas M. Pangborn, Caleb Jewett and Oliver Miller came from Ohio by way of Parish's Grove, to Milford, then to Levi Thompson's, on their way to the Rock river country to find a place to settle. Before going further they concluded to examine the land on Spring creek. They went up on the east side, crossed over to Frame's and stopped over night; the next day on the north side to Smith's, where they stopped three days, during which time they selected land and went by the way of the Butterfield trail to Danville, where they entered their several lots. T. M. Pangborn entered 220 acres, the present Doolittle Farm, and for his brother (Ransom) 80 acres, his present farm, and 80 acres of timber. Jewett entered the Horace Barnes Farm, 80 acres of timber and other lands, where J. W. Grubbs and David Risser live, and a lot near John Miller's. Oliver Miller entered the W. A. Davis Farm. Jewett at once returned and built a cabin on the north end of his timber lot, a few rods east of the Pangborn burying-ground. On October 2, 1837, the Pangborns and Harpers moved into the Jewett cabin; the Harpers had bought that lot of Jewett.

Ten grown persons, Samuel and Mary Harper, Thomas M. and Jane Pangborn, Alexander and Diana Harper, Ransom Pangborn and Samuel H., Margaret and Mary Ann Harper, wintered in this sixteen-foot-square building. In December, Johnson T., infant son of Thomas M. and Jane, died; he was one year old, and was the first person buried in that burying-ground. The next spring Thomas built his cabin a few rods from his child's grave, and lived there until 1845, when he erected a new house of hewed logs, on the Butterfield trail. April 10, 1856, it was destroyed by fire, and the south house, on the same farm, was at

once erected on the same place. Mr. Pangborn was elected associate judge in 1853, and served four years. Ransom B. Pangborn married Margaret Harper, June 24, 1838; this was the third marriage in the settlement. They lived with Thomas till the fall of 1840, when he moved on his own land, which he now owns. Alexander Harper entered the E.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 19, and commenced living there in 1838. His widow, Diana Harper, lives on the same farm. He died February 14, 1845. Mary Ann died March 25, 1839. Samuel H. Harper and his parents continued to live in the Jewett cabin till 1839, when they moved it to the prairie, where he now resides. Samuel H. Harper married Mary Lehigh, April 16, 1839. Father Harper died

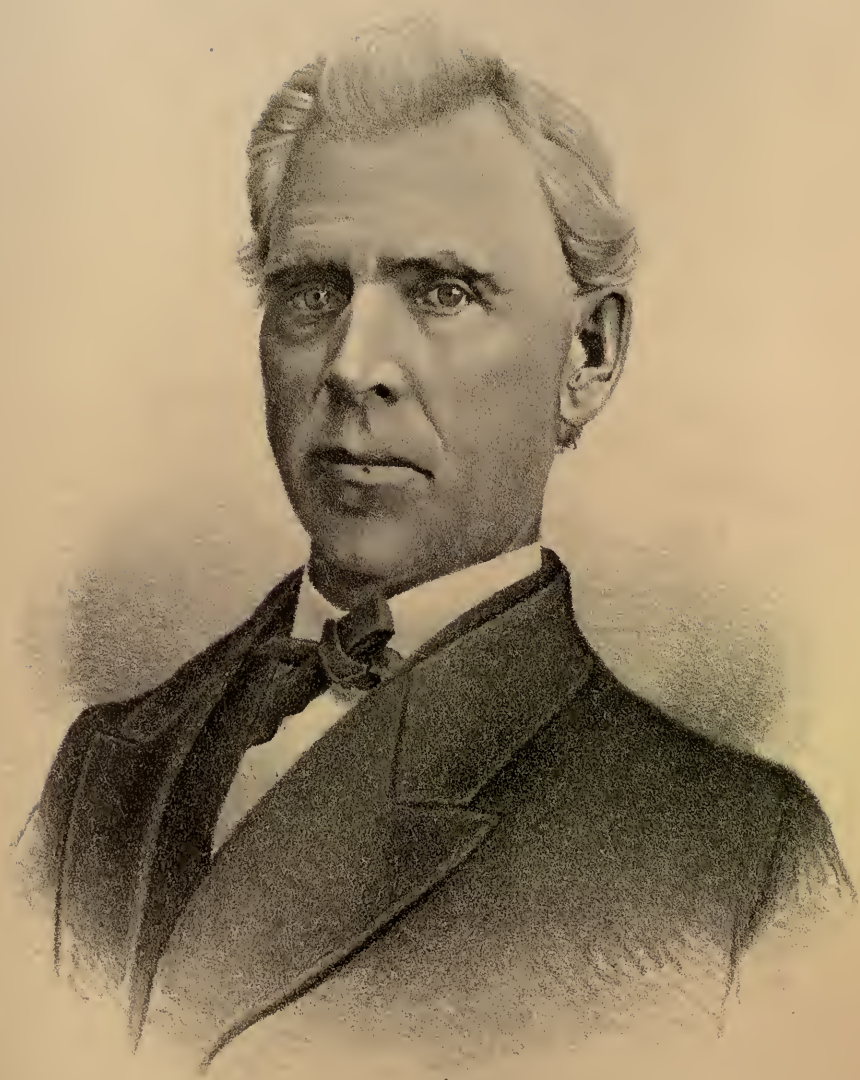


PIONEER LOG CABIN.

February 23, 1846, and his widow July 9, 1852; they were natives of Pennsylvania. The two Pangborns and the latter Harper have raised large families who, with their parents, occupy respectable positions in the community. One of the first things this little colony did in the spring of 1838 was to carefully plant a parcel of apple seed they had brought from Ohio; from these seeds came the first of their orchards.

On the return of Lindsey, Lehigh and Grice, from their prospecting tour in the fall of 1834, they found Samuel Mason Ayers at Covington, and when Lindsey returned to build his cabin Grice and Ayers accompanied him. Ayers remained about a month, made a claim, and returned to Virginia. In the fall of 1835 or 1836 he moved his family, and spent the winter at Lindsey's, whose wife was his sister, and the next





*Geo M. Pangborn*

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spring moved to his claim, lot 2, N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 1, T. 25, R. 10. Elizabeth, his first wife, died April 25, 1854, and was buried in the Lehigh burying-ground, where four of her infant children were also buried.

In the spring of 1837 or 1838 a fruit-tree peddler appeared on Upper Spring creek. Lindsey, Wright, the Smiths and the widow Lehigh bought out his entire load and set their orchards. Miller not getting any of these trees, went to the Wabash with an ox-team, and purchased enough for a small orchard. These were the first fruit trees planted, and some of them bear fine apples to this day, as the writer can bear witness.

Reuben Skeels, with his wife (Sally), four sons (Henry, Orvis, Nelson and Reed), two daughters (Cynthia, and Almira Root with her two children, Clinton D. and Mary Ann), came with the Pangborns and Harpers. Mr. Skeels was through this county in June, 1836, with Stephen Tripp, and bought land of James Smith, and also made a claim. Tripp made his selections and settled on the Iroquois river, near Plato. Skeels built his cabin on the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 31, T. 26, R. 14. South of the ditch, near the northwest corner of that lot of land. This was his home for many years. His wife died July 16, 1838. In April, 1843, he married Hannah Kyrk, by whom there were two sons (Irvin and Orvis), now living near the old home. His second wife died April 6, 1855, aged forty-eight years, and he April 22, 1864, aged seventy-six years. Henry Skeels married Sally Roberts, of Ash Grove, April 18, 1839; Ira Lindsey, Esq., went to that settlement to tie the matrimonial knot. In 1841 Skeels commenced the Pierce farm in N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , Sec. 31, T. 26, R. 14, and died February 4, 1849. Robert Skeels and Mrs. David Bullington are two of his children. The same year his brother Orvis improved the Metzger place. He married Rachel Brock, of Ash Grove, March 26, 1840, and died September 19, 1841. John Kyrk bought the Oliver and Nelson-Miller land, and moved on it in the spring of 1837. His cabin stood a few rods from the present residence of W. S. Davis; the artesian spring close by determined the location of his dwelling. There were two sons (Isaac A. and William) and three daughters (Hannah, Mary and Mahala); the latter married Loved Evans. Kyrk brought a hand-mill with him. It was the third of that class in the precinct. Kyrk died May 5, and his wife August 13, 1847.

Benjamin W. Rackhold, with his wife (Sarah), and several children, came in the spring of 1837. Their cabin was being raised on the day the Pangborns and Harpers drove past on their way to the Jewett cabin. It was about a half mile south of Wright's. Mr. Rackhold died July 29, 1854, and his wife September 23, 1856. Melissa Jane,



their eldest daughter, married John Oldridge. Tobiatha is the wife of John Judy, of Fountain Creek.

Hamilton Jefferson, a native of Alexandria, Virginia, with Sarah (his wife), and her son (Spencer Sayers), their four sons (Henry, Hamilton, George and Thomas); their five daughters (Ann Maria, Cerene, Ophana, Hannah and Martha), with the families of Seth Jones, Henry Jones and Jephtha Hayman, twenty-six persons in all, embarked March 23, 1835, with their household goods, at Graham's landing, Meigs county, Ohio, in a boat seventy-five feet in length and about twelve in width. They floated down the Ohio nearly 1,000 miles to the Wabash; up the latter river they towed and poled their bark 400 miles to Tilson's Ferry, where they landed on the 8th of May. For thirty days the men labored at the oars, poles and tow-ropes, forcing the boat up the stream. At night on the 10th they were in Georgetown, Vermilion county, Illinois. In the summer of 1836 Jefferson and the two Joneses came to Iroquois county to select land for their homes. They made claims on the Iroquois; the Joneses remained there, but Jefferson abandoned his claim when informed by the Indians that colts and papposes could not be raised there on account of the cold fever (milk sickness); they assured him these desirable accompaniments of farm and home life were in no danger of that disease on Spring creek. This brought him to the point of timber ever afterward known as Jefferson's Point. He entered the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 12, T. 26, R. 14 W., and in February, 1837, built a cabin. In October he moved his family to their new home. At this time he hauled fifteen bushels of corn meal and a half-barrel of flour from Danville. After getting well settled his first work was to construct, with a seven pound wedge, a spring pole and a log made concave on top, a machine for pounding hominy. The machine occupied one end of the dwelling; it was a grand success in preparing that kind of food for a family of twelve persons. Jefferson and his step-son Sayers had raised a crop in the neighborhood that season. Two daughters were added to this already large family after arriving in Illinois, one while living in Vermilion county, the other in their new home. Thomas, and Hannah Oppy are the only representatives left. Hamilton went to California about 1854, and has not been heard from for over twenty-three years. Mrs. Jefferson, while on a visit to her relatives in Ohio, died, October, 1858, and was buried there. January 10, 1859, he married Mrs. Nancy Eoff, with whom he lived till his death, September 28, 1878, leaving one daughter by her, who lives with her mother in Onarga. The second year Jefferson resided on the creek he dug a well forty-eight feet deep; finding no water he bored twelve feet, when the water suddenly

came up, filling the excavation several feet. The water was so impregnated with sulphur that it was never used. The boring was accomplished by a pod auger made from a dry hickory rail; the cutting part was cased with tin from milk pans. This is the first boring for water in the county of which we have any knowledge.

John Churchman, his wife Caroline, and three or four children, came in 1837, probably in the spring. His dwelling stood on the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 15, T. 26, R. 14, on the east side of a small ravine. A large cottonwood tree now marks the place. He entered several tracts of land, and made some improvements. In 1848 he sold out and went to California, where he died. The family then moved to South America, where the widow died, leaving several of the children in the latter country.

William D. Robinson commenced a farm adjoining and north of Jonathan Wright's in 1838. With much energy and good calculation he accumulated a fine property. Mr. Robinson died January 3, 1856, at forty-seven years of age. His wife, Lovina, died March 26, 1854, aged thirty-eight years.

Henry Root drove a horse-team from Ohio in the fall of 1838, and late in December arrived at Reuben Skeel's, where his family had been for more than a year. Root made a cabin on the S. W. fractional  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 30, T. 26, R. 11 E., where he now lives. This has been superseded by a frame house. The back pension of \$1,700 which Mrs. Root has lately secured, on account of the death of her son, Clinton D. Root, in the late war, has enabled them to build a nice residence for their old age.

From this date, while the advent of new settlers is of equal importance, as regards the individuals our time and space will allow only the brief mention of their names, without adverting in detail to their subsequent movements. Among the last named are remembered Loved Evans, Dr. Andrew E. Manderville, a skillful physician, Thomas A. Norvell, keeper of the first hotel in Onarga, Moses Oppy, a notorious hunter, John Freeman, Daniel Cavin, who taught the first school in the Pangborn cabin, and Seneca and Carlos Amsbary. The Dean brothers were also among the early settlers. They were all school teachers, and have left their impress upon many who were then among the youth but have now grown to manhood and womanhood in these and other parts.

John Shipley was the first blacksmith. He came in 1848. Before this Milford afforded the nearest facilities of this kind.

For the first fifteen years the settlers found abundance of game in the timber and on the prairie. Deer had to be herded from the corn-

field, and they were often found feeding among the cattle. Venison was always on their tables. Wild fowl, ducks, geese, brants and prairie chickens were too plenty to be profitable. Wild hogs for some years furnished pork, and for a few years a stray flock of turkeys could be found. At the same time the land was almost overrun with snakes. Often, in closing a land of a few acres plowing, the last day's work was fraught with danger to man and beast from the numerous rattlesnakes, driven, day by day, to the center. They were so plenty that the sturdy oxen would become almost unmanageable. It was not uncommon for a man, in a month's breaking sod, to kill a hundred or more of these poisonous reptiles. In early spring the more harmless snakes would come from their winter quarters in great numbers, and in a sudden chill they would gather in masses as large as a bushel basket and remain for the warm rays of the sun to give them more life. T. Lindsey attacked such a mass with an ax, and demolished a large number of them.

Corn bread was the staple in that line. For weeks at a time wheat bread would not appear. The children were glad to see a visitor at the cabin, especially a neighbor woman or the preacher, for their presence told of warm biscuit. In most of the families flour bread was furnished on Sundays. This made Sunday a welcome day to the little folks, and the parents felt thankful that they were so well provided for. The reader may think such a life would be unendurable, but, in the language of an old settler, "You could stand it if you had to."

#### SCHOOLS.

Besides being a religious and law-abiding people, the first settlers of Onarga knew the importance and value of education, and at an early day put forth an honorable effort in that direction. In the fall of 1836 a school was organized, and taught by Marilla Ayers. In the Lehigh cabin, Louisa Wright taught in the same room in 1837. In 1838 Mrs. Diana Harper taught about twenty scholars in the same place. For her services she received \$1.50 per week, which was regarded at that time as high wages. William Prentiss taught the following winter in one of the Amos cabins. Caroline Grice and Nelson Skeels were teachers in an early day in the Lindsey neighborhood. Caroline Webster, daughter of Chauncey Webster, of Sugar Creek, was employed in the summer of 1839. John Wilson was employed in the winter of 1840-41, and kept a school of about thirty scholars. The house was about thirty rods southeast of H. Lyon's residence. It soon became necessary to have a school in the Pangborn neighborhood, and in the winter of 1842-3 Thomas



M. Pangborn taught in one of the Kyrk cabins, where Ruth Hibbard's dwelling now stands. The next fall, late in November, a log school-house was built on the west bluff of the basin, northeast of E. Doolittle's dwelling; the ditch at that place occupies the site. Daniel Cavin was the teacher that winter, and Alvira Lehigh the next summer. At this time there were two schools on Upper Spring creek. In the summer of 1843, after Lindsey's family moved into their brick house, Mrs. Lindsey taught a school in their cabin. In 1845 there were two schools; in 1850, four; in 1858, seven; in 1860, nine; and 1880, thirteen. Among the teachers from 1840 to 1850, we find Rev. T. B. Hall, Mary Darling, Julia Leggett, Mahlon Boyd, Mary Vroman. From 1850 to 1860: Maranda Miller, Addison Lockwood, Mary Evans, Violetta Boswell, James Lindsey, Alfred Fletcher, Miss V. Bennett, Dr. E. P. Squires, T. M. Snow, J. Edwin Smith, Miss M. E. Needham, Hezekiah Storms, Lizzie Hastings, M. Wilson, Molly Denton, C. R. Eager. The number of schools, from the first one, in 1836, has kept pace with the increase of population, and their efficiency is well attested by the general intelligence of the people. It has been said for many years, by the postal clerks, that more reading matter came to Onarga, in proportion to its population, than to any other town on the Illinois Central railroad. The village has for many years been the educational center of the county.

In the fall of 1856 H. H. and F. L. Stone built a school-house on their addition to the town, and that winter D. P. Norton taught the first school in the village. The following May a building on the east side of the railroad, where A. K. Doe now resides, was rented, and Harriet M. Messer (now Culver) was employed three months. In August, 1857, Union school district No. 1 was organized, and at the election on October 6, Dr. J. L. Parmalee, Enoch C. Hall and William C. Moore were elected directors. The same teacher, with Helen Skeels (now Eager) as her assistant, was employed for the winter of 1857-8. The school was in the stone school-house. The difference in compensation for the same kind of work, in 1838 and 1858, is shown by \$6 per month in the former year, and \$28 in the latter.

The rapid growth of the village made it necessary to furnish more and better rooms for schools; and, in the spring of 1858, a house 30×48, 12 feet high, was built. For putting up this structure Horace Pinney was paid \$1,025. At that time it was the largest and best school building in the county. Fannie E. Murdock and Jennie Sheffield opened the school in this house about the middle of July.

A. C. Burnham (now a resident of Champaign) in 1860, opened a private school in the upper room of C. A. Newton's store building. At one time a private school was taught in the house now occupied for a dwelling by J. C. Culver, Mrs. Culver being the teacher.

July 19, 1867, the directors contracted with Ralph McKenney, Cyrus Austin and R. B. Cultra for the erection of a two-story brick school-house, 32×50. It was completed that year, dedicated January 6, 1868, and cost, when furnished, \$5,749.57. The year following an English cast-steel bell, costing \$140, was put in the tower.

As early as 1865 schools were organized for the colored children, who at that time had no school rights under the laws of the great state of Illinois. The expense of such schools was paid by contribution till, on December 28, 1868, the board of directors "voted to admit the children of the colored population of suitable age to all the rights and privileges in the public school which other children have"; A. E. Donaldson and M. H. Messer for, and J. C. Culver against, the proposition. This action of the board drew forth a shower of opposition, and January 1, 1869, the citizens held a meeting, and by resolution requested the school officers to open a separate school for the colored people in their church at least six months each year, and pay the expense out of the common school fund. Consequently, in November, 1869, Miss Annie Allen was employed at \$33 per month to take charge of such school. It soon became apparent that it ~~would~~ not be a judicious expenditure of money to continue this school in the spring for the few who would attend in the warm weather, and there being plenty of vacant seats in the brick house, to it they finally found their way, and in a year or two the separate school for their benefit was discontinued. In 1872 F. P. Beach took the contract to build an addition to the school building, 25×40, two stories, with a mansard roof. When completed and furnished it cost \$4,189.92. It is a beautiful structure, an ornament and a credit to the town. The seating capacity of the house is 275. The present directors are: George B. Winter, James B. Baldwin and Joseph D. Long; the teachers are: A. K. Carmichael, principal; Mrs. Kate Hanby, Mrs. Eva L. Evans, Lizzie Soule, Hattie Harper and Mary Slattery. It is worthy of note that Miss Soule has been a teacher in this school since 1865, except in 1872. Mrs. A. E. Rumley was a teacher for five years, Hattie Davis for six years, and Hattie Harper for five years; Mrs. Kate Hanby eight years out of eleven.

Besides the public and private schools above mentioned, the Rev. John Thomas, pastor of the Presbyterian church, opened a select

school in about 1862. The rooms over Pierson's store were used for that purpose. This school continued about two years, and was successful. In the spring of 1865 W. P. Pierson, at his own expense, erected a substantial building, and May 1, 1865, Emily and Mary Wilson opened a school in it. It was known as the Onarga Institute. Under the management of these ladies the school became well and favorably known. In the winter of 1868 it numbered over 100 pupils, and four teachers were constantly employed. The Rev. A. G. Wilson attended to some of the advanced classes. Mr. Wilson was president of the official board. This school continued till June, 1872, when it suspended.

#### GRAND PRAIRIE SEMINARY AND COMMERCIAL COLLEGE.

In the spring of 1863 the following questions were submitted by the Rev. P. T. Rhodes, presiding elder of the Middleport district, to each of the quarterly conferences in his charge: First, "Does the country which the said district embraces, and the country contiguous to the same, demand a high-grade seminary?" Second, "If so, should the M. E. church establish an institution of learning of a character adapted to meet the wants of a rapidly growing section of our state?" Upon mature deliberation each quarterly conference elected a delegate, whose duty was, with the preacher in charge, to attend a convention to be held at Onarga in an early part of the summer. June 10, 1863, the educational convention of Middleport district met at Onarga. At 9 o'clock A.M. P. T. Rhodes was called to the chair. G. W. Gray, J. H. Rhea and O. W. Pollard were committee on credentials, and they reported that Dr. Steward, of Chebanse; A. O. Whiteman, of Sheldon; C. D. Chapman, of Chebanse; Lorenzo Beech, of Fairbury; Alonzo Taylor, of Ash Grove, and M. H. Messer, of Onarga, were proper delegates. P. T. Rhodes was declared a member of the convention, he being the presiding elder of the district. The friends of the movement, from Buckley and Kankakee city, and other places, were invited to participate in the discussion. The places competing for the location of the institution were Kankakee city, Onarga, Buckley and Middleport; Onarga on the final vote receiving 13 out of the 22 votes cast. The following persons were appointed to call a meeting, according to the statutes, to elect trustees, and to decide upon a name for the institution: W. P. Pierson, W. G. Riggs, P. T. Rhodes, Charles H. Wood and G. W. Gray. Pursuant to a call made by the committee appointed, a meeting was held June 26, 1863, and P. T. Rhodes, Ransom B. Pangborn, Samuel H. Harper, Winslow Woods, of Onarga; William G. Riggs, of



Buckley ; C. D. Chapman, of Chebanse ; and I. J. Krack, of Forestville, were elected trustees. C. H. Wood was elected treasurer. July 9, P. T. Rhodes was appointed financial agent for Grand Prairie Seminary, to solicit funds and appoint local agents. It was determined to open the school by October 1, and the M. E. church was used for a school-room. Shortly afterward a building, 14×40, 9 feet high, was erected on the church lot, and used for school purposes till the seminary was completed. Rev. George W. Gray was elected principal, and his wife professor of languages and natural sciences. It was thought best to organize a primary department, and J. E. Smith was appointed to take charge of it and teach vocal music. In April, 1864, G. W. Gray and wife were continued in their respective positions. Rev. O. W. Pollard was elected professor of commercial science ; Mrs. Sarah Marston, preceptress ; Mrs. Louis A. Crawford, teacher of instrumental music ; Hattie Packer, teacher of German ; Charles H. Wood, commercial law. J. E. Smith retained control of the primary department. Before it was decided to locate the institution at Onarga, the citizens, with their usual liberality, had subscribed toward the erection of the necessary buildings about \$7,000: Elder Rhodes, with his untiring energy, commenced the work early in the spring of 1864, and in the latter part of the summer a building, 40×60, three stories high, was completed, and in the fall occupied by the institute. The structure cost \$10,000, and to fence the grounds and improve the same left a debt of \$1,100 to be provided for. At this time, the fall of 1864, the institute was well organized ; with a full official board, a complete corps of efficient teachers, a sharp and energetic financial agent, and a fine building located in the central part of a rich farming district, rapidly increasing in population, and under patronage of a most powerful church organization in the northwest, this school commenced its work. Rev. G. W. Gray resigned February 27, 1865, and O. W. Pollard was elected the second president of Grand Prairie Seminary. In the fall of 1867, a colored man applied for admission to the school. The faculty held a meeting for consultation and decided to admit him ; this created much opposition among some of the patrons of the school, and the official board was asked to disapprove the faculty's decision ; the result was, the faculty was sustained. In April, 1868, the stockholders decided to admit persons of color to the seminary. In November, 1868, D. K. Pierson, of Chicago, donated \$500 for the seminary library, provided a similar sum be added to it. The records of the next April state that \$1,000 has been added to the library. This includes the D. K. Pierson contribution, which was made in



C. V. Page.

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



books. To place the institution on a sure foundation it was necessary to endow it; to accomplish this object its friends in this part of the state, in 1872 (the M. E. centennial year), made an effort to that end, and raised by subscription \$22,026.50. By reason of the hard times, and the conditions under which the donation was received, that fund has shrunk to about \$16,500, which is now placed beyond the probability of loss. Rev. J. T. Dickinson was president for six years, ending July, 1877, at which time Rev. John B. Robinson took his place, and is the present incumbent. Besides the regular academic courses usually taught in such institutions, a complete course is given



REV. JOHN B. ROBINSON.

in commercial science; this department is now, and has been for the last ten years, in charge of Prof. John H. Atwood. Ellen J. Benham, lady principal, and Phœbe Van Benshoten, teacher of French, Latin and English, have been teachers in their several branches for the last seven years.

From the beginning music has received its share of attention, and in June, 1878, G. Frank Page was engaged to take the entire charge of the department. The professor is a finely educated musician, in the theory as well as the art. His study of music was completed by a two-years course in the world-renowned school in Leipsic, Germany, under the tuition of the German masters; this preparatory

training has made him a superior teacher. From the crude organization existing when he came, he has now one of the most complete conservatories for musical culture in the state. A separate building was prepared for his use, and in the beginning of 1880 the Congregational church was leased for a term of years, and a number of rooms arranged for instruments and classes. There are six pianos and one large pipe organ, furnished by him for his pupils. Vocal culture, theory and composition are made prominent features of this school. Thus far it has proved a complete success, and bids fair to hold its present high reputation.

For the last two winters President Robinson has furnished a course of popular lectures. Ex-Vice-President Colfax, Gov. Cumback, of Indiana; Dr. Gregory, of the State University of Champaign, and other eminent men, were among the speakers. The proceeds were for the benefit of the school, resulting in the purchase of astronomical apparatus, and lastly a fine five-foot telescope. The whole number of pupils attending the seminary proper the last year was 227; in the commercial department, 47; conservatory of music, instrumental, theory and composition, 59; vocal classes, exclusive of the juvenile and citizens' classes, 200. Of the number, 206 are enumerated twice, leaving the total number of different pupils in this institution, 327. Rev. George W. Gray was elected first principal; Rev. O. W. Pollard, February 27, 1865; Rev. N. C. Lewis, September 20, 1865; Rev. O. W. Pollard, June 5, 1866; Prof. C. Loza Smith, January 21, 1868; Rev. W. C. Knopp, January 8, 1868; Prof. W. J. Beams, August 6, 1869; Prof. H. C. Burch, August 18, 1870; Rev. J. T. Dickinson, president, July 12, 1871; Rev. John B. Robinson, May 28, 1877.

#### CHURCHES.

The first preacher on Spring creek was the Rev. Mr. Springer; he was the first Methodist minister located in the county, and lived at John Nelson's, on Sugar creek, in 1854. He held meetings at Abraham Lehigh's and Jesse Amos' in 1835. Rev. A. Wiley and Rev. Leander Walker preached at the same places and at Jonathan Wright's the succeeding two years. Louisa Wright taught a Sunday school in the summer of 1837: some of the children had testaments, and some had spelling-books.

In the winter of 1838 a church was organized. Reuben Skeels and his wife Sally, Henry Skeels, Mrs. Diana Harper, Margaret and Mary Ann Harper, Mrs. Jane Pangborn and Orvis Skeels were its founders. The sermon on that occasion—the evening of Febru-

ary 1—was preached by Justus Ryman from Luke xii, 32, "Fear not, little flock, for it is your father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." In a short time Mrs. Almira Root became a member. The next summer Thomas M. Pangborn joined, and not long afterward Samuel H. Harper and his wife united with the little church, as did some of the Frame family. The first meetings were held at the house of Reuben Skeels, afterward at Alexander Harper's, his house being more central. A Sabbath school was organized, but on account of prevailing sickness it was discontinued till the summer of 1839. Mr. Skeels brought a collection of Sunday school books from Ohio; these were used for a library. The county at that early day was a missionary field, and was known as Iroquois mission as late as 1844. At the organization of the church Mr. Skeels was appointed class leader, and in 1840 T. M. Pangborn took his place. The latter has held that position ever since. Hooper Crews was the presiding elder, and lived at Danville. G. W. Robins, also of Danville, succeeded him. His successor was John W. Phelps, who lived at Washington, Tazewell county. Then came John Morey, of Abingdon, who was followed by Orlando Walker, from near Joliet, and John Chandler, of Peoria. Z. Hall was here in 1855. John W. Flowers, P. T. Rhodes, J. S. Cummings, G. R. Palmer and H. I. Brow were the elders since Z. Hall. The preachers from 1838 to 1856 were: Justus Ryman, John W. Parsons, L. Oliver, Samuel T. Burr, William Gage, Lewis Roberts, S. Stover, Reuben Moffatt, George W. Homes, Uriah Giddings, Alonzo D. Feidler, with Mrs. Royal as assistant, Joseph Wilson, William R. Irving, James Watson.

After the log school-house was built, in 1843, at the basin, meetings were regularly held in it. This was the place of worship until 1853, when the new school-house was erected. Middleport circuit was made about 1844. It included Spring creek settlement, and in about 1850 the circuit of Ash Grove was organized, including this settlement. In 1856 Onarga circuit was created, and November 22 of that year the first quarterly conference in it was held at Body's school in Belmont. Z. Hall was the elder, and William A. Presson preacher in charge. He was "allowed \$225 table expenses and \$216 quarterage." There were four classes: Onarga, Lower Spring Creek, Williams at Samuel Williams', and Oxfords, near Hamilton Jefferson's. The church had increased till it was able to build a place for worship, and in the summer of 1856 erected a structure, 30×40 feet and 18 feet high, with tower. This building was located on lot 2, block 17, of Onarga, donated by David A. Neal, of Salem, Massachusetts. The dedication sermon was preached by the Rev.



**Mr. Slanter.** On that occasion the people donated \$354 to liquidate the debt. The building cost about \$1,500. At that time it was the best meeting-house in the county. In 1865 this building was sold, and the church has held its services since in the chapel of Grand Prairie Seminary. From the little band of eight organized into a church in 1838, in a log cabin, it has grown into a church of 150 members; Sabbath school numbers 100. Dr. H. M. Laney is the preacher in charge.

As early as 1843 the United Brethren had a representative on Spring creek; the Rev. Kenoyer, of Beaver lake, held meetings at Frame's and Mrs. Lehigh's. An organization was perfected, but the members being few, regular preaching was not secured for many years. In 1856 a church was formed, and held regular meetings each two weeks at the River school-house until about four years since, when the place was changed to the west school-house. A Sabbath school is well attended in warm weather, and is suspended in the winter. Samuel Zook is presiding elder, Henry Merideth, preacher, and Richard Barrett, class-leader. The membership is twenty-five.

James H. Major and others held a meeting October 4, 1856, at the Harper school-house, to consider the subject of organizing a Baptist church. On the 1st of November a second meeting was held and Elder M. C. Blankenship presented the usual articles of faith, and they were signed by William A. Hall, Viletty Hall, James H. Major, Mary Major, William M. Devore, Samuel Major, Susan Major and Mary Major, and they were organized into a church. M. C. Blankenship and A. C. Blankenship supplied the pulpit till David Lewis was settled as their pastor, November, 1857. Early in 1858 steps were taken to build a house of worship, which resulted in the erection of a building 38×56, 25 feet high, with a tower; it was located in the village of Onarga, and was dedicated January 25, 1859. S. M. Brown, now of Loda, was settled about this time, and continued pastor till August 25, 1860. There was a debt of a few hundred dollars on the church, which claim fell into the hands of the Rev. L. Foster, and the Congregational church became owner of the property in the summer of 1860. January 30, 1864, the church was dissolved for the purpose of organizing a new one of the same faith. At this time the membership was seventy-five. February 12 a new organization was perfected, with thirty members. April 10 D. W. Morgan was settled as pastor. In the spring of 1866 a new church building, 29×42, 18 feet high, was erected on lot 1, block 20. Dr. Colver preached the dedicatory sermon June 3. Morgan resigned

March 20, 1867, and Peter Conrad became the pastor in September, and continued two years. For the last four years there has been no preaching, but the organization is still held.

In 1856 the Rev. Mr. Tayler came, under the auspices of the Presbyterian church, and meetings were held at the school-houses in the neighborhood, and in the depot buildings. March 3, 1857, a church was formally organized by a committee of the Presbytery of Peoria. It was composed of fourteen members: C. C. Wells, Martha B. Wells, Robert S. Johnson, Mary Johnson, Darius Matthews, William P. Pierson, Mary C. Pierson, John S. Storms, Hezekiah Storms, Catharine Allen, Lewis Avery, John R. Loudon and Elizabeth Loudon. C. C. Wells, W. P. Pierson and Darius Matthews were the elders. In 1858 steps were taken to secure means sufficient to erect a church. This was done on strict business principles, by taking the donors' notes, etc. The house—a neat Gothic structure, 28×40, 12 feet high, with high, sharp roof, an ell 16×24 for a Sunday school room opening into the main building—was completed in 1859, and on the 11th, 12th and 13th days of November of that year it was dedicated, the Rev. Henry Bacon, of Covington, Indiana, now of Toledo, Ohio, officiating. This building cost \$1,850, and when dedicated was paid for, and *twenty-five cents* of the building fund remained in the treasury. The Rev. W. C. Magner is the present pastor. W. P. Pierson, J. R. Loudon, Leonard McIntyre, W. D. Matier and Peter Risser are the elders. The membership is about 125, and Sunday school members about 100. In May, 1858, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America met in Chicago; the members of that body were invited to an excursion, and on the 28th six passenger coaches were switched at Onarga. At once the cloth began to pour out, till 400 clergymen were in and about the depot. The little church here had made ample preparation to receive them. All the citizens were enlisted in their entertainment. Tables were improvised from the lumber yard, extending along the platform at the depot, and while the address of welcome by William P. Pierson, and the response by Rev. D. Little, of Ohio, were being made, the good ladies of the village spread a most substantial collation. After partaking of this unexpected repast they returned to Chicago. It was a most enjoyable occasion, long to be remembered by the participants.

As early as August 29, 1858, the Episcopalians of Onarga had service in town. From the fact that they held a festival at the passenger house on the 11th of that month it would appear this sect was represented before the first date. The Rev. Mr. Broadenax

preached October 31, and Bishop Whitehouse held service in the M. E. church December 16, 1858, and again November 15, 1859. The church was organized by the Rev. M. Phillips, of Peoria, with about twenty-five members. George M. Lovell, Horace Pinney, James P. Peckham, Elkanah Doolittle and Mrs. Mary Doolittle were among its founders and earnest supporters. In the fall of 1867 the church, 25×60 and 12 feet high, Gothic style, with tower at one corner, was built at a cost of about \$5,400. It is now the property of the Doolittle heirs. The church has not sustained a preacher for some years.

November 22 and December 2, 1858, the friends of the denomination of Congregationalists held meetings preparatory to organizing a church. December 9 a council was assembled and the society organized. Harvey Frisbie, Betsey Frisbie, Samuel O. Fowler, Joseph S. Fowler, Gordon Baldwin, Harriet S. Baldwin, Henry Hewms, Simeon P. Avery, Samantha Avery, Celestia Avery and Henry Plumb were the members. January 5, 1859, H. Frisbie and S. P. Avery were appointed deacons. For two months meetings were held in the Methodist church, when an arrangement was made with the Baptists for the use of their church, without charge, a part of each Sabbath. At this time Lemuel Foster was settled as pastor. He was followed by Alpheus Winter, May 7, 1863, G. R. Hewling in July, 1866, and E. M. Dwight, February 25, 1869, the last named remaining ten years. Since then the pulpit has been supplied from Chicago. This church has struggled along with a small membership. The Sunday school, organized when the church was, has always been well attended. The church is denominated the First Congregational.

The Second Congregational church was organized February 16, 1879, with seventy-nine members; Rev. James W. West, pastor; John C. Ramsey and David Peters, deacons. A Sunday school of about sixty-five meets during the milder seasons. Meetings are usually held once each Sabbath at the Ramsey school-house.

The Rev. M. Bowen, of Chicago, a Universalist minister, preached the funeral sermon of Ira Lindsey in April, 1844. He remained in the neighborhood a year or two. He was the pioneer of this sect on Spring creek. March 13 and May 15, 1859, the Rev. Mr. Livermore preached in the school-house to the friends of this faith. April 24 the society was organized by electing Lewis J. Bennett, Daniel W. Parker, Julius L. Dewey, G. B. Fickle, trustees; Richard A. Hungerford, secretary, and Dr. Samuel Hueston, treasurer. For a number of years this society employed ministers to preach, but never



settled one. Meetings were held in the school-house and at the depot. A Sunday school was organized and sustained for some years. The Rev. Josiah Davis often preached for this society. There is now in its treasury over \$100.

In 1865 and 1866 a number of families of the Society of Friends settled in Onarga. Most of them were from Indiana, one from Maine. The heads of the families met at the house of B. F. Jenkins, and united in asking the "Wabash Meeting" for the privilege of holding a meeting for worship, preparatory to a monthly meeting. The request was granted, and on the 4th day of the 5th month, 1867, by direction of "Wabash Quarterly Meeting" of Friends, the meeting in Onarga was opened and organized by a committee from that meeting. They built a place of worship, 30×46, 15 feet high, a plain wooden structure. Miss Jane E. Weeden, sister of Samuel E. Weeden, by her individual effort collected about \$900 in cash to build the house. During the last few years many of the families moved away, till there are not enough remaining to sustain a meeting. Jonathan Owen, in January, 1880, sold the property to the colored Baptist denomination.

The Seventh-day Adventists organized a band, consisting of J. W. Tait, Nancy J. Tait, Sarah F. Owen, John Haven and Eva Haven. This was the result of a course of lectures and sermons delivered in a large tent, in the summer of 1877, by R. F. Andrews and G. W. Colcord. The mission connected with this band was organized December, 1877. Its object is to distribute documents of their belief. Regular meetings are held each week, and preaching as often as a minister can come. The Sunday school of this band numbers about twenty persons.

The Christian Church was organized by Rev. D. R. Cotton, in February, 1877; John Cunningham and Thomas B. Weekley were appointed elders; James Cunningham and Francis Duncan, deacons. At that time there were about twenty members. A Sunday school is connected with this church. The Rev. Mr. Pointer has been the minister since the second meeting in 1877; meetings were held at the River school-house for about a year, and since then at the Ramsey school-house.

The colored people ever since they have been here, have had their church organizations; they now have three, and hold services in two places nearly every Sabbath; they are designated as follows: First (colored) Baptist, Methodist Episcopal (colored), and African Methodist. The Baptists now have the Friends' church. The M. E. church have a house 14×40, and the African Methodists have a house about 14×20.

The Methodist church at Del Rey was organized in 1875 by James Coleman, who preached once each week for the next two years; J. P. Forsyth took his place for a year. In 1877 the Del Rey circuit was made, including this, a church at Veaches school-house, and the one at the Ricketts school-house; the latter was organized by J. Millsap. The Rev. H. Hart was in charge two years, and now J. M. Deatch is the pastor; membership about fifty. The Sunday school has always been successful, numbering over sixty. F. P. Beach is class-leader, Stewart Lindsey and Elisha Danforth, stewards; meetings are held in the school-house. The parsonage was built in 1877 at a cost of \$600. Ricketts church, four miles east, has a membership of about fifty, and a Sunday school in the summer season. Hiram Salisbury is the class-leader, and Burr Smith steward. This church was organized by the Rev. J. S. Millsap, about 1875.

The prison department of the Western Seaman's Friend's Society is located in Onarga; it has been in successful operation for five years. The object is to distribute reading matter of a religious, literary, scientific and agricultural character among the prisons, penitentiaries and jails of our land. Small libraries are often furnished to county jails and city prisons. Every two weeks from 9,000 to 12,000 pages are sent to those institutions. In 1877 there were received, assorted, packed and sent forward 1,000,000 pages; in 1878, 2,000,000, and in eleven months of 1879, 2,000,000. Large boxes of such literature have been sent to California, Texas, Arkansas, North Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Louisiana, Kansas, Missouri, Minnesota and Kentucky, and their contents distributed among the prisoners of those states. Railroads and express companies carry all the packages without charge. In transporting 6,000,000 pages to Onarga, and sending out 5,800,000 in thirty-eight months, inadvertently there has been charged \$1.15. The Rev. W. D. A. Matthews is the originator of this particular work, and to him is all honor due.

On March 17, 1856, a lodge of Good Templars was organized with about twenty members. Its numbers increased in a few months to about seventy-five. July 25, 1856, it suspended and surrendered the charter. December 24, 1864, Onarga Lodge Independent Order of Good Templars, No. 528, was instituted, with J. N. Bates, Rev. D. W. Morgan, Rev. O. W. Pollard, A. Owen, Elizabeth Owen, Rev. W. F. Lowe, Kate Morgan, M. H. Messer, Cyrus Austin, Jane Austin, D. S. Gray, William Tharp, William S. Spurgeon, Hiram Lowe, Annie Van Duzor and Kate Lowe, charter members. Rev. D. W.

Morgan was W.C.T.; Jane Austin, W.V.T.; John D. Thomas, W.S.; H. V. Needham, W.F.S.; C. Austin, W.T., and were among the officers installed February 10, 1865. This lodge has held regular meetings each week, and its efforts and influence in the community have been successful. At one time there were 185 members in good standing. It now numbers 48 sisters and 35 brothers. The present officers are: M. H. Messer, P.W.C.T.; Thomas Davies, W.C.T.; Eliza J. Graves, W.V.T.; J. H. Atwood, W.S. & L.D.; Miss Scofield, W.A.S.; John Lash, W.F.S.; G. B. Winter, Sr., W.T.; C. A. Whitmore, W.M.; Louisa Fuedly, W.D.M.; Mary Fickle, W.I.G., Elmer Young, W. Sentinel; Mrs. \*Thomas Davies, R.H.S.; Mrs. Mary Riner, L.H.S. This lodge meets on Friday evenings.

Onarga Lodge, I.O.O.F., No. 208, was instituted July 23, 1856, by A. C. Lewis, acting grand master. The first officers were: William C. Moore, N.G.; R. W. Andrews, V.G.; A. N. Crawford, R.S.; T. M. Pangborn, Treas.; David Weaver, L.S.; M. F. Cheeney, O.G.; Horace Pinney, I.S.G.; Tom Lindsey, W.; J. C. Culver, C.; Robert S. Johnson, L.S.V.G.; O. H. P. Sheffer, L.S.S. This lodge suspended November 5, 1862, and until after the war. September 12, 1867, it was reorganized by Burges and White, who were deputized for that purpose. Rebekah Degree Lodge, No. 4, and Grand Prairie Encampment, No. 138, are connected with it. The present officers are: James E. Owen, N.G.; Robert Malcomb, V.G.; H. J. Freeman, R.S. & T.S.; Horace Babcock, Treas.; William A. Davis, W.; G. B. Munson, C.; H. Pinney, O.S.G.; M. McKenney, I.S.G.; W. B. Lyman, R.S.N.G.; G. B. Winter, Jr., L.S.N.G.; C. E. Van Neste, R.S.V.G.; George Nichols, L.S.V.G.; H. E. Bibbins, R.S.S.; W. Mace, L.S.S. This lodge had public addresses delivered before it. Ex. Vice-President Colfax and Hon. John H. Oberly were employed for that purpose. Its meetings are held regularly, Thursday evening of each week; number of members, 59.

A lodge of A.F. and A.M. was organized under a dispensation of the grand master, October 9, 1857. It was never chartered. It was reorganized and chartered October 5, 1859, as Onarga Lodge A.F. and A.M., No. 305. The charter members were: Curtis L. Knight, George B. Fickle, Charles Rumley, R. W. Andrews, Dr. Samuel Heuston, Thomas A. Norwell, Hamilton Jefferson and Japhet Hull. The first officers were: Curtis L. Knight, W.M., G. B. Fickle, S.W.; Dr. Samuel Heuston, J.W. The present officers are: Henry M. Lovell, W.M.; A. K. Doe, S.W.; John C. Culver, J.W. It is in a prosperous condition.



## MILLS.

The hand-mill was a pair of smooth granite burrs, about sixteen inches in diameter, so arranged that the grinder, while turning with one hand poured in the grain with the other. A peck of meal per hour was a fair result. As early as 1837 there were three such mills in the settlement, owned by Amos, Kyrk and Frame. About this time Amos bought a pair of the same kind of burrs, twenty-three and one-half inches across, and run them by horse-power. About 1846 Reuben Skeels bought a stump-mill of Northrup, and set it up on his farm. It was operated by horse-power. In 1849 Tom Lindsey and Seneca Amsbary put up a portable saw-mill on the south side of Sec. 31, T. 26, R. 14 W, where they sawed lumber for some time, when they moved it to a point on Spring creek about twenty rods southwest of J. H. Magor's residence. Here they ran a combined saw and grist mill, using the burrs purchased of Reuben Skeels. In 1850 this set of burrs was sold to Dr. L. Boyd, who set them up on the farm now owned by B. F. Lindsey. In the spring of 1850 James B. Mattock sold his farm near Jefferson's, and built a steam saw and grist mill at Del Rey. In a year or two he sold it to Culver and Greer, who ran it until the Illinois Central railroad was constructed to that point, when they sold to Henry Bacon, one of the civil engineers of the road. Bacon ran this mill for several years, when at last it was dismantled, and the building fell into the hands of Mr. Sarles, who moved it on his farm. About 1856 Job Denning and David Reeder built a saw-mill two miles east of town; in a year or two a pair of French burrs were put in, also a bolt for flour. This mill in its doubled capacity was operated as late as 1868, when the engines, stones and all the machinery were sold, and the building converted into a hay barn. Mr. Merrel commenced the erection of a flour-mill in the village in 1859; the building was raised in August. The owner, running short of funds, sold out to Snodgrass and Campbell, who completed the building and put in three run of stone in August, 1860. The citizens contributed \$1,000 for this enterprise. Wood, Long and Hungerford bought out Snodgrass and Campbell in September, 1864, and sold to Conrad Ludwick and Jacob B. Ludwick about 1866, who owned and ran it most of the time till May 24, 1873, when it was destroyed by fire. P. Risser & Sons, by the influence of G. R. Risser, one of the firm, erected their mill in 1872. August 28, 1873, it blew up, making a wreck of the engine and cool rooms, boilers and engine. A section of one boiler, about twelve feet long, weighing over a ton, was landed about 1,100 feet from the mill. No lives were lost; but Joseph Chenoweth, the

engineer, and John C. Gable were badly hurt. The next year the Rissers bought George H. Van Neste, who had been a partner, and put the mill in complete running order. It has remained in their hands ever since, and has been run most of the time.

#### CITY OF ONARGA.

After 1850 the settlement was quite rapid, and when it was known that a railroad was to be constructed in the western part of the county an impetus was given to immigration. The first survey of the Illinois Central railroad was about a mile west of Crescent, and afterward on its present location. On December 2, 1853, trains from Chicago ran as far as Del Rey, and the first business house was opened early that year by Frank Walker, to accommodate the railroad men, and he moved farther south on the line as the work advanced. Walker's store was a few rods from B. F. Lindsey's barn. James M. Smith put a small stock of goods on sale at Del Rey, as also did T. B. Gardner and D. B. Peck. The latter, Gardner & Peck's, was the first general store.

Onarga was laid out in the fall of 1854, by David A. Neal, vice-president of the Illinois Central Railroad Company. He was a resident of Salem, Massachusetts. Since then there have been ten additions laid out, and the plat on Sec. 19, T. 26, R. 11 E., and the east part of Sec. 24, T. 26, R. 10 E., comprises about 300 acres. The village is on a comparatively high ridge, nearly one hundred feet above the lake at Chicago, twenty-three feet above Gilman, three and a half miles north, and over forty feet above the creek bed the same distance south.

Loved Evans in 1841 improved land and made a claim, within the limits of the village, and in 1851 sold 40 acres of his claim to Addison Lockwood, who purchased the log school-house near the basin, and in the fall of 1853 moved it to his claim. This was the first building in the village, and stood in the street west of M. H. Messer's house. It was occupied by W. P. Pierson a part of the winter of 1854-5. About this time James M. Watts built a shanty to live in, which, with about four acres of land, he sold to Nelson Skeels, in December, 1854. Skeels built a frame house on this lot in 1855. It is now a part of T. W. Ludwick's residence. Watts was the first blacksmith here, and his shop was a few rods south of W. H. Spurgeon's house. In December, 1853, the railroad company built its boarding-house in the street about one hundred and fifty feet north of the hotel. Henry W. Clark moved into it in January, 1854, and kept boarders, principally railroad men, who were building the depot

buildings and loading sand on the cars to take to other points. At times there were as many as sixty lodgers of a night. About July 12, at supper, there were fifty-seven; the next morning Clark and his wife were alone at breakfast. That night Patrick Murry and Thomas Quirk were taken with the cholera. Murry died before morning, but Quirk recovered. All the boarders were frightened and left.

Early in the spring of 1854 W. P. Pierson commenced the first business in the place. His stock was less than a car-load of lumber. He and his wife boarded at Judge Pangborn's, over a mile from the depot, till they moved into Lockwood's cabin. The next spring he had completed his dwelling, office and business house combined, a structure 12×16 feet. Right here and in this room was commenced one of the early institutions of the town. Mrs. Mary Pierson commenced a Sabbath-school, with four or five scholars, as soon as they moved into their home. As families were constantly moving in, this school increased rapidly in numbers and efficiency until, in the period of about two years, it numbered some eighty scholars. It overflowed from the residence of Mr. Pierson to his warerooms, and from thence to the new school-house on the hill. All this time it was eminently a union school, and embraced all the children of the village. As the different churches were organized from time to time each drew from this school its scholars, until it was superseded by the different denominational Sabbath-schools of the place. It continued in its original form some six years, and in its day did a good work in forming a nucleus of good influences among the children. It is common to hear persons who are now men and women refer to this school with a smile of pleasure on their faces. They are proud to say, "I was one of Mrs. Pierson's Sabbath-school scholars." Early in the same spring that Pierson commenced business William C. Moore and James Miles erected the very first business house in the place, a structure 18×28 feet, now standing opposite the hotel. They opened a general line of goods, and did a good business. Miles sold to Dr. A. N. Crawford early in 1856. In 1857 Crawford sold to Moore, and started a drug store. Moore continued the business for some years at the old stand, when it finally fell into the hands of Richard A. Hungerford. Onarga never had a more precise, accurate and thorough business man than William C. Moore. A little while after Moore & Miles built their store D. B. Peck built the second store building, a few rods farther south and nearly opposite the depot. His small stock of goods was brought from Del Rey, and business began in a small shanty before his store was completed, and before Moore & Miles opened out. On July 4 of the same year Oliver L. Clark



plastered his house, built where A. K. Doe lives. Soon after this James D. Kelly built a house near the residence of Mrs. C. Venmens, and sold it to T. A. Norvell, and built a second on the northwest corner of the seminary lot, and sold that in the early part of 1855 to Townsend B. Gardner. Norvell kept a hôtel in 1855. About the time D. B. Peck opened his store, Henry Peck opened a saloon just south of it. Dr. A. N. Crawford settled here in 1854, boarded at Judge Pangborn's, and in 1855 built an office where Durham's bank now is. This office of the doctor is the east room of Isaac Amerman's residence. Crawford was a well read man, and one of the best physicians ever in the county. He sold out to Dr. John L. Parmalee, who came from Ohio with his family in January, 1856. The same month John C. Culver built his dwelling and moved here from Del Rey. The fall before, he, in partnership with Dr. Lemuel Boyd, opened a lumber yard. In about a year Boyd sold his interest to William H. Skeels. M. H. Messer opened a surveyor's office and general land agency in their lumber office. In October, 1855, John W., James and Abram Owen came from Jacksonville, this state, and while building the house now occupied by J. W. Owen lived in a cabin of Joshua Evans', over a mile from town. A blacksmith shop was opened, and the next year David Weaver, who for them, and afterward for himself, carried on the business several years, was employed. He built the house where Winslow Woods resides. At this time whisky was sold in at least two places. March, 1856, Culver erected the building now his residence, and Chancellor L. Richardson and Isaac McCourtie opened a dry-goods store below, and the three secret societies had the upper room for their hall. In about a year McCourtie sold his interest to Richardson and soon built a warehouse, and in 1859 Lewis Russ was his partner in the grain, lumber and agricultural implement business, and finally they opened a hardware and furniture store, which they prosecuted to a success, both parties making a fortune. Russ bought McCourtie out, January, 1872, took his son, Lewis D. Russ, as a partner, built the north warehouse the same year, and held the grain business till January 1, 1880, when B. H. Durham bought them out. Russ & Son sold their hardware and furniture store to Elkanah Doolittle in 1875, who ran the business about two years, when it fell into the hands of his son, Milton Doolittle.

P. T. Rhodes and Isaac Amerman commenced a banking business in June, 1867. It was the first house of the kind in town and was much needed, and was a great accommodation to the business men. It suspended operations in January, 1870. They were succeeded by

Warren H. Doolittle, who sold out to Benjamin H. Durham, April, 1871, and who still continues the business. Thomas Ward came in 1857, and worked at tailoring for Knight & Thomas. He soon commenced business for himself, and his success has grown into a large dry-goods and grocery trade, employing three clerks. Eliphalet R. Knight and Joseph Thomas rented the store built by D. B. Peck, in 1856, and opened the largest and best stock of goods in the county at that time. Their trade was very large, and extended into every kind of merchandise the new settlers called for. Thomas died March 24, 1858. This event threw the whole responsibility on Knight, who made a strong effort to carry the business alone. In settling the estate of Mr. Thomas his capital was withdrawn, greatly crippling the business. For relief a partner was found in Seely Hetfield, a man of energy and considerable means. For a time the business was prosperous, and a large room was rented of W. P. Pierson. The excessive hard times immediately following, with a large amount of outstanding debts, and bills becoming due, determined Hetfield to withdraw, leaving Knight in possession of the business. In a short time the firm took the form of Knight & Rice, and finally closed up in about 1860 or 1861, with Rice as receiver. Knight raised a company and entered the army, and at the close of the war remained in the south, till his death in 1879. He was a man of untiring energy, extravagant in his habit and plans, rich to-day and poor to-morrow, but never giving up. For a short time after the war he was a member of the educational board of the state of Arkansas. Joseph Thomas, his first partner in business in Onarga, had lived in the county for many years. He was a member of the legislature in 1854. He was a part owner of the town of Gilman, and had much influence in procuring individual contribution for the east and west railroad through the county. His energy made him a desirable partner for Mr. Knight; had he lived, misfortune would not have come to the business he had helped to organize so soon.

After Dr. A. N. Crawford died, in December, 1862, his widow continued the drug business, and in 1864 her brother, James B. Baldromed, became a partner, and finally, sole owner, when in 1868 M. D. Firman bought a half interest in the business, and held it till 1876, when he sold to Baldwin, who with his son, Louis, now keeps the store. Dr. Samuel Hueston put in a small stock of drugs before the war, which business he continued for several years. He sold out to William M. Barrett in 1872.

In the fall of 1856 T. B. Johnson opened a harness shop. Simeon P. Avey soon after that commenced the boot, shoe and harness busi-

ness, and followed it for many years. H. J. Freeman commenced with F. Watts and W. A. Thayer, in harness and boot and shoe business in 1864, and for the last twelve years, at least, has been in business alone. George B. Winter commenced the manufacture of boots, shoes and harness in the spring of 1866, with W. A. Thayer as partner. They continued the business seven years, when Winter bought Thayer's interest in the concern and formed a partnership with his son. They have carried one of the largest stocks of their line of merchandise in the county. R. A. Hungerford, successor to W. C. Moore, left the old stand and built a store out of the business center, but found it was a partial failure and bought of A. D. Gardner the building he had erected and occupied for a store and dwelling for a few years, now occupied by T. Ward, and opened a large stock of goods. Here he did business for several years. J. C. Culver, after abandoning the lumber trade in about 1858, was out of business till about 1864, when he went into a grocery house with Addison Lockwood. Culver has continued in the same kind of business to this time, and has of late years carried the largest stock of groceries in town.

Among the early business men were also Charles Rumley, Ed. Rumley, Charles A. Newton, Henry T. Skeels, Curtis L. Knight, Horace Wright, D. S. Gray and George Flogg; later were V. W. Doshill, James Nelson, Mrs. E. J. Graves, successors to each other in the notion and book trade.

William P. Pierson soon added to his lumber a general line of hardware, farming tools, coal and flour; he also purchased grain, and as his business increased erected buildings for himself and to rent to others. At one time there was scarcely an enterprise but that he was in some way connected with it. In March, 1867, Pierson and James A. Cultro were partners in the hardware trade; Pierson and Henry Frisbie in the lumber and coal and farm implement business. S. K. Marston, after four years, bought Frisbie's interest, and was Pierson's partner a year or two. T. W. Ludwick bought Pierson's interest in the store in 1874, and was a partner of J. A. Cultro till January 1, 1880, when Cultro sold to W. D. Motter. Pierson covered his buildings with signs, and for years had two columns in each of the papers. In the fall of 1862 Peter Risser came to Onarga from Ohio. Pierson at once took him in as a partner in the dry-goods, clothing and grocery business. In February, 1868, Risser bought Pierson's interest and formed a partnership with his son, Gilman R. Risser, and later with Lewis and Charles Risser. In the summer of 1870 they put up a brick store building 40×90,



two stories high, with basement. It is the largest store-room in the county. Their sales have reached as high as \$60,000 in a year, exclusive of the sale of flour, etc., at the mill, and of the grain trade.

Sandford K. Marston has been in the grain trade for the past eleven years, and now has the south warehouse, built by McCourtie in 1873. Besides the brick store of Risser & Sons there is one single brick business house and a block of six stores, two stories, with basement. The four to the north were built in 1868, and the other in 1869. Each room is 20×80 feet.

#### THE DECATUR BAGGING COMPANY.

Moses Jerome and John Dement commenced buying flax-straw in September, 1870, and immediately purchased land and erected a tow-mill. They worked up about 800 tons of straw each year till 1875, when they sold out to the present company, Jerome being one of that firm. Since the establishment changed hands about 1,700 tons of straw have been used yearly. In 1878 they purchased of the farmers in the neighborhood 2,800 tons. The yield of tow is about one ton to four of straw. Some years this company at this mill has raised over 300 acres of hemp; always raising from one to two hundred acres of flax, and occupying over that number of acres all the time. The buildings, machinery, teams and implements necessary to the business cost nearly \$10,000. There are about twenty-five men employed most of the year, receiving good wages for their labor. Mr. Ralph McKenney has always superintended the business of the company at this place.

Mr. Pond, the first photographer, came in 1856. Mr. Hawly followed him, then George Phillips and Dr. Phinney. Finally, William Lawhead commenced in 1865, and holds the field by doing first-class work.

Thomas R. Barnes opened a saloon as early as 1856, and in a short time erected a large building, in which he had a stock of liquors and a billiard table, which he continued to run for several years. On August 26, 1862, twenty-five ladies, led by Mrs. Sarah Clark, entered his place of business and totally destroyed all his liquors, both in bottles and barrels. In defending his castle he used a hay fork, striking Mrs. Clark on the arm and wounding it slightly with the tines. The other two saloons agreed to close business, and were not molested. This action of the ladies was the basis of a suit with Thomas R. Barnes, plaintiff, and forty-eight of the best citizens of Onarga, defendants. A change of venue was taken to Kankakee



*Winslow Woods*

LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS



county, and on April 24, 1863, the court rendered a judgment for Barnes of \$300. It was finally settled by a compromise. In the summer of 1857 George Saddlers, a notoriously disorderly man, undertook to open a saloon, and on the night of July 11, his building, a small structure, was razed to the ground. The saloon was never opened. The last institution of this kind, a saloon and billiard table, was kept by Willard S. Fuller, and by the action of the town board was closed May 19, 1866.

February 9, 1863, the citizens voted to become incorporated under the statutes. On the 16th, Charles H. Wood, G. G. Webb, Winslow Woods, Cyrus Austin and Richard A. Hungerford were elected trustees. Hungerford was president of the board, and Wood, clerk. March 11, 1867, it was organized under a special charter. March 30, 1876, it was organized by a vote of 80 for, to 3 against, under the general village charter. The present village officers are: George B. Winter, Jr., Ezra D. Durham, Milton Doolittle, Elmore Munson, Edward B. Jones and Frank Kilpatrick, trustees; Frank Hungerford, clerk; Lewis J. Risser and Clarence C. Sedgwick, library directors; W. M. Barrett, treasurer; and William C. Morris, magistrate.

April 20, 1861, the citizens held a war meeting, and raised a fine liberty pole. There were speeches and great exhibitions of patriotism. July 30, James Fletcher, of Watseka, Paddock, of Kankakee, and other speakers, attended a similar meeting. It was a large gathering, and a company of sixty-five volunteers started for St. Louis. Late in the fall of 1861, E. R. Knight raised a company of cavalry, and in August, 1862, Capt. Robert B. Lucas, with others, raised a company of infantry and entered the army.

Many of the citizens of the village feeling the need of better facilities for procuring reading matter, organized themselves into a library association, and December 4, 1858, elected Horace Pinney, president; Dr. J. L. Parmlee, vice-president; and Fordice Sylvester, Moses H. Messer, Charles Rumley, Henry M. Lovel and Arthur Carney, directors. There were then 150 volumes donated by the members. Shares were fixed at \$5 each, and persons could become members by paying that amount in money or books. In 1861 there were 500 volumes, and the value was seventy shares at \$10 each. In the fall of October, 1862, an excursion was arranged to Chicago. Four coaches were chartered, and after paying all expenses, there was in the treasury \$255. A lot was purchased, and a building, 14×20 and twelve feet high, was erected, at a cost of \$164.44. The library was well sustained and kept in good condition by a tax on

the shares till 1870, when it was closed for two years. In 1873 the shareholders voted to donate all their library property to the village, on condition the village should assume the debt of \$171, and annually levy a two-mill tax for library purposes, and keep it a public library, as provided by the state law. March 24, 1873, the village trustees accepted the donation and the conditions above stated. At that time there were 1,000 volumes, which, with the real estate, was worth at least \$1,000. March 2, 1874, the first board of library directors were elected by the citizens: Henry M. Lovel, William T. Duke, for one year; Isaac Amerman, Sanford K. Marston, for two years; Joseph D. Long, M. Everett Dwight, for three years. From the time the donation was made to the present the corporation authorities have appropriated, each year, for library purposes, \$250. In 1878 a complete catalogue was published, prepared by A. C. Cowen. This is one of the most valuable institutions of the town. The present directors are: Henry M. Lovel, S. K. Marston, J. D. Long, M. H. Messer, C. C. Sedgwick and Lewis Risser.

At an election held at the house of T. A. Norvell, June 4, 1855, 50 votes were polled: John D. Caton received 28 for supreme judge; S. W. Randall received 24 for circuit judge, the others not voting for any one for those offices. The question of prohibition was before the people, and 25 were for it, and 24 against. All but six of the Caton ballots are against prohibition. The writer has the poll-book and ballots in his possession. William P. Pierson, Samuel H. Harper and Cyrus S. Pangborn were the judges of election.

At the election in Onarga precinct, held at the house of T. A. Norvell, November 6, 1855, there were 63 persons voted. The question of township organization was before the people for the first time. There were 19 for, and 41 against it. There were 49 votes against, and 1 for, swine and sheep running at large. Samuel H. Harper, William P. Pierson and Nelson Skeels were judges of election; R. W. Andrews and Silas Lockwood, clerks.

April 1, 1856, was held the first township election; Dr. Samuel Hueston, moderator, and E. F. Rose, clerk. The Doctor was keeping the hotel at the time, and his office was used to hold the election in. There were 88 votes polled; Ray W. Andrews was elected supervisor; Dr. A. N. Crawford, town clerk; Dr. Lemuel Boyd, assessor; Nelson Skeels, collector, and Thomas A. Norvell, Jacob Riner and Daniel Wright, commissioners of highways. Dr. Samuel Hueston and William Buckles were elected justices of the peace; Buckles did not qualify. George W. Hoel and L. Harris were elected constables.

In the next four years the settlement was very rapid; the government land was all taken up, and the railroad company had sold large quantities of their land. Most of the new-comers were from the eastern states; men with small means, who came west to make new homes as farmers, and others to become farmers. They nearly all commenced on the prairie, distant from the timber, and soon learned it was cheaper to fence their stock than to fence their crops, and as early as 1861 an effort was made to restrain it from running at large. The conflict was between those who had their farms already fenced and those who had not yet fenced, and were not able to. The latter thought a township well settled, with a family on each quarter section, would do more to build up society, schools and churches, make roads and wholesome laws, than a dozen or twenty farmers with vast herds running at large. The result culminated, finally, in a state law restraining all stock from being free commoners. It was a severe contest, and ran through more than ten years. The following is a list of the township officers of Onarga since the county adopted township organization:

DATE.	VOTE.	SUPERVISOR.	TOWN CLERK.	ASSESSOR.	COLLECTOR.
1856	88	Ray W. Andrews	Dr. A. N. Crawford	Dr. Lemuel Boyd.	Nelson Skeels.
1857	83	Same .....	Elkanah Doolittle..	Nelson Skeels....	John C. Culver.
1858	...	Same .....	Moses H. Messer...	Same .....	Horace Pinney.
1859	220	Same .....	Charles Rumley ...	Same .....	Same.
1860	264	Same .....	John S. Storms...	David H. Metzger.	Same.
1861	288	Same .....	Ed. Rumley.....	William H. Skeels	John S. Storms.
1862	280	Chas. H. Wood..	Charles A. Newton.	Winslow Woods..	John Lash.
1863	245	Same .....	George W. Binford.	Same .....	Hiram J. Skeels.
1864	148	Same .....	Ed. Rumley.....	Same .....	A. E. Donaldson.
1865	202	Same .....	Same .....	Same .....	Enoch C. Hall.
1866	257	Enoch H. Hall..	Same .....	Julius L. Dewey..	Horace Pinney.
1867	339	David H. Metzger	Same .....	Luther T. Clark...	Dr. J. L. Parmalee.
1868	340	Same .....	Same .....	Same .....	Same.
1869	431	Same .....	Same .....	Same .....	Curtis L. Knight.
1870	498	Almon S. Palmer	Enoch C. Hall....	Horace Pinney...	Thos. G. Robinson.
1871	496	Same .....	Same .....	Same .....	Isaac Amerman.
1872	341	Same .....	Same .....	Anson Lisk.....	T. B. Hall.
1873	336	Same .....	Same .....	Same .....	Isaac Amerman.
1874	338	Isaac W. Wilson	Same .....	D. B. Moffatt....	Charles R. Eager.
1875	405	Almon S. Palmer	Same .....	Horace Pinney....	Isaac Amerman.
1876	491	Same .....	Same .....	Silas C. Lockwood	Same.
1877	593	Dr. I. F. Palmer	Charles E. Branner.	Same .....	A. E. Donaldson.
1878	428	Same .....	Same .....	Same .....	Isaac Amerman.
1879	377	Same .....	Same .....	Same .....	Same.
1880	...	Same .....	Same .....	Same .....	John Coyner.

In giving a history of the mills and the arrival of the railroad at Del Rey a few items relative to the business of that place were mentioned. We are credibly informed, could the railroad company have made proper arrangement for land at the creek, machine shops would



have been erected there instead of at Champaign. There would have been the town, and Onarga would never have existed. But it was otherwise, and the little hamlet struggled along for years. Henry Bacon, one of the civil engineers of the road, bought the mill in 1854, and in May, 1856, he had twenty town lots laid out. The company did nothing favoring the place, but were forced to build a tank and put in pumping machinery for its own use. An addition was laid out about 1870. In 1879 the passenger house was built. F. P. Beach has a store, a brickyard and drain-tile factory. Stewart Lindsey has the other store, which he has kept for many years. Mr. Lindsey was one of the engineering party in the first survey of the road as early as 1852. Since this place has been relieved of its rough element, which always clusters around where liquor is sold, it has put on new energy, and is now doing a good business. The cholera broke out in this place in July, 1854. James M. Smith died with that disease at French Lick Springs, Orange county, Indiana, on the 15th inst. Before burial in the Lehigh graveyard the coffin was opened by Joseph Morris and R. H. Webber. From this exposure both were taken with cholera; Webber died on the 18th, Morris recovered. In a few days Benjamin Rockhold and his sons, Noah and Charles, were in their graves. There were eight cases, four proving fatal.

The post-office at Del Rey was established August 23, 1854. The postmasters were Dr. Lemuel Boyd, Tom Lindsey and Stewart Lindsey. The income to the government the first year was \$1.57. Nebraska post-office, at Jefferson's point, with Hamilton Jefferson as postmaster, was established in 1855, and continued six months; the income was forty-two cents. Onarga post-office was established in 1855, with Townsend B. Gardner as postmaster. The income the first year was \$16.99. Charles Rumley was postmaster in April and May, 1858, when Dr. Peyton D. Beecher was appointed. Rumley was again appointed in the summer of 1860. Dr. John L. Parmalee succeeded him, and held it till October 18, 1866, when Franklin Graves was appointed. His widow, Eliza J. Graves, was appointed October 6, 1867, and held the office till July 10, 1875, when Eme-line Amerman was commissioned, and held the office till January 7, 1880, when John B. Lowe took possession of it. April 20, 1880, James Owen was appointed postmaster at Onarga. The history of this office, and all the various changes and causes for such changes, cannot be given here. To do so would take more space than can be devoted to the subject in this work. It is, however, one of much interest, and ought to be written up.

The Onarga "Mercury," the first newspaper in town, was commenced August 13, 1859, by R. McKee Davis and Bockus. It was sustained about a year and a half. Ed. Rumley issued the first number of the Onarga "Advertiser" in August, 1865. It was merged into the Onarga "Review" in February, 1866. The "Review" office was moved to Moline December, 1869, and in the winter of 1870 L. M. Babcock started the Onarga "Times." This office was moved to Watseka in April, 1871, and became the Watseka "Times." In the spring of 1870 Jacob Keizer issued the first number of the Onarga "Courier," which continued till that fall, when Keizer moved it to Winamac, Indiana. While both the above papers were in existence, John B. Low opened a small job office, and on their retiring from town he, in the winter of 1872, commenced the issuing of the Onarga "Review," the present paper.

In the fall of 1862 the war department, after some conference with some of the leading citizens, sent fifty-eight colored persons to Onarga from Cairo. They were transported in stock cars, and were in very destitute condition. They were well cared for by the people, among whom they found homes. At a school election, April 4, 1870, they appeared at the polls to vote and were challenged. The fifteenth amendment to the constitution had become a part of the organic law of the land, making them citizens with equal rights of white citizens. After some discussion fourteen of them were allowed to vote, the same members of the school board voting in their favor who voted to allow their children in the public schools a couple of years before.

October 14, 15 and 16, 1857, the first agricultural fair of Onarga was held in a large tent located about a quarter of a mile south of T. M. Pangborn's present residence. William C. Moore, Dr. A. N. Crawford and Ray W. Andrews were the movers in this enterprise. A second similar fair was held in town the next fall. Eight years elapsed before another was held, and October 11, 12 and 13, 1866, a similar tent was pitched on the present grounds and the fair held in it. H. P. H. Bromwell and Gen. Charles Black held a joint political discussion in the same place a day or two before the fair. They were candidates for congress. The success at this time led to the perfecting of a joint stock company in the interest of agriculture, known as the Iroquois County Agricultural Society. It was chartered by the state, with a capital stock of \$25,000. At the annual meeting, December 9, 1868, there were \$175.40 in the treasury. May 29, 1869, the society procured a deed for 23 acres of land for \$75 per acre, from Allen Pinkerton. It is the N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S.W.

fractional  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 18, T. 26, R. 11 E. This land is admirably adapted for the purpose for which it was selected; is inclosed by a tight board fence eight feet high; the floral hall is  $24 \times 100$  feet. There is a large number of complete stables for all kinds of stock, a never failing supply of artesian water, and a fine amphitheater which will comfortably seat 500 persons. The track is a half mile in length, and is the best in this part of the state. The present officers are D. C. Brown, president; H. Pinney, vice-president; James E. Owen, secretary; D. Ward, treasurer.

The settlers who came to this neighborhood after the railroad was completed felt the need of the organization of a small fruit and horticultural society, in which could be discussed the various kinds of pursuits in which they were engaged. About the time of the war a farmers' club was organized, composed of the leading farmers in the township, and meetings were held as often as circumstances would permit. During the war these meetings were abandoned; other things took the attention of the people who had a country to save and had sent sons to save it. After the war the meetings were resumed by such men as E. G. Babcock, F. P. Beach, H. Pinney, R. B. Pangborn, S. H. Harper, J. B. Clark, I. W. Wilson and many others. In February, 1866, the name was changed to Farmers' Club and Fruit Growers' Association, and in May, 1867, again changed to Onarga Horticultural Society. In December John B. Clark was elected president; H. Pinney, vice-president; E. C. Hall, secretary and librarian; and Dr. L. Pike, treasurer. In the spring of 1868 the State Horticultural Convention held a session here. M. L. Dunlap, of Champaign, Dr. Warder, of Ohio, and other celebrated horticulturists lectured from time to time before this society. It was for many years considered one of the leading organizations of the kind in the state. Regular meetings were held till 1878, and occasionally since then. The soil in the neighborhood is well adapted to small fruit, and this industry has been one of considerable magnitude. It was commenced by E. Gould, who first made a success in strawberries, soon followed by many others, till for several years there were nearly 100 acres in strawberries, and a number of acres set to raspberries and other small fruits. Some years more than a hundred tons of grapes are raised in the corporation. One year the sales of small fruit amounted to over \$30,000, and the culture employed a large number of laborers. In the last few years, on account of the low price of fruit, many have abandoned the business.

December 3, 1864, there was organized a company to prospect for coal. Sech Turner was the superintendent; E. C. Hall, treasurer;



J. D. Bennett, C. H. Wood and M. H. Messer, a committee to coöperate with the superintendent in the work. December 19, 21 and 23, D. C. Wilber was employed to lecture on the coal formation in the state. May 1, 1865, the work was commenced by boring at a point a quarter of a mile south of the depot. John Farlas, in May and June, sunk a shaft  $8 \times 12$ , 75 feet deep, but was compelled to abandon it on account of artesian water. It was located one mile and a quarter north of town. In the fall of 1866 boring was again commenced, and on April 11, 1867, a depth of 222 feet had been reached. The citizens raised for Mr. McCulloch, who was prosecuting the work, \$350, and he went on till the depth of 527 feet was reached, but October 29 the project was abandoned.

About 1860 Lewis Russ and Isaac McCourtie bought of Erastus Martin, of Woodstock, Champaign county, Ohio, "Rollin," a fine mahogany bay stallion, which Martin had imported from France. It was the first of that celebrated stock, "Percheron Norman," in this part of the state. In the spring of 1870 the same men, with Timothy Slattery, formed a company, and Slattery went to France and personally selected five horses, and safely landed them in Onarga in the following June. In 1872 the same parties imported eight more, selected by the same party, and delivered in June. The same year Horace Babcock and Lee C. Brown imported five, Brown going to Europe to select them. They were landed in Onarga in the summer of 1872. Russ and McCourtie purchased "Old Tom" from parties in Ohio who imported him. In 1874 about thirty farmers associated themselves together, denominating themselves the Onarga Live Stock Importing Company, and sent William B. Lyman to the old country to select their stock; the result of this effort was the delivery of ten stallions, on the fair ground in Onarga, May 25, 1874. In September, 1874, Russ & Slattery brought over two black stallions, Slattery accompanying them across the ocean. The Onarga Live Stock Importing Company, being successful in profitably disposing of their first venture, sent Luther T. Clark and Lee C. Brown for a second lot. Nine were purchased, and delivered in Onarga in May, 1875. Mr. T. Slattery is now in France selecting a lot of three or four, which he expects to deliver in Onarga early in June, 1880. Of all the above lot of horses only four are now owned in town; the others were sold from time to time and taken into nearly all the western states beyond the Mississippi river. No stock has ever brought the farmers so much money as this; there has always been a ready sale of all half and quarter breeds of this valuable stock.

In the limits of the town there are five places where the dead are

buried. The first is called the Lehigh graveyard. It is on a high point, putting out from the south into the big bog southwest of Del Rey; it is in the S.E. cor. of the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of lot 4 of N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 1, T. 25, R. 10 E. There are, as near as can be determined, 190 graves in the inclosure. No better place could have been selected in the neighborhood for that purpose, and it is in a reasonably good condition. The second, as to age, is known as the Frame graveyard. It is on the east bank of Spring Creek, near the N.W. cor. of S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 15, T. 26, R. 14 W; the bluff is near twenty feet high at this place, rendering the locality always dry. There are thirty-three graves in all. In one inclosure twelve of the Frame and Rounsavell families are buried. There are two or three other inclosures, but the fences are all going to decay rapidly; no fence incloses this spot. The third is known as the Pangborn burying-ground. It is in the edge of the timber on a high bluff east of the creek, near the N.E. cor. of S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 19, T. 26, R. 14 W. At this place have been buried about sixty-four persons; about twelve have been removed to the cemetery at Onarga. This place is inclosed by a good fence. The fourth is known as the Jefferson burial-place, located near the creek, on the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 12, T. 26, R. 14. The first grave was that of Henry Jefferson, and it marks one corner of the spot where Hamilton Jefferson, his father, located his first cabin in 1837. There are twenty-three graves at this place. It is in a pasture, and but few of the graves are inclosed. Onarga Cemetery Association was organized under the laws of the state in March, 1858. Thirty-six persons were present out of the forty-six, who had at a previous meeting subscribed \$5 each toward a cemetery fund. Enoch C. Hall was elected president; William H. Skeels, secretary; Elisha G. Babcock, John C. Culver and Lewis Russ, directors. At this meeting the officers were directed to purchase ten acres of land, the present cemetery lot. In the summer of 1858 a tract of land was purchased and laid into blocks, lots, walks and driveways, and on the 7th of August the stockholders met and bid for choice. R. B. McCready bid the highest, and secured the lot where he was afterward buried. The net proceeds of the choice bids amounted to \$48. In the spring of 1867 the grounds were ornamented by shade trees; a reception vault was constructed at an expense of \$350, and a fine substantial gateway with iron gates was put up, at a cost of near \$175. In October, 1877, five acres were purchased on the south at an expense of \$550. It is a most desirable addition for future use. This resting place for the dead is a beautiful knoll, rising gently from all sides to the summit near the center.



M. JEFFERSON.  
(DECEASED)



LIBRARY  
OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

The soil is sand, and naturally well drained. There is now a fine growth of elms along the main driveways and a variety of evergreens along the walks. Such grounds are a credit and an ornament to Onarga. The respect paid to the dead is a just measure of our appreciation of the living.

#### THE MURDER OF MARTIN MEARA, JR.

Martin Meara, Jr., a boy eleven years old, was burned and whipped by his father till he was dead. June 13, 1871, the lad was knocked down twice, and most unmercifully flogged until he could not stand. Two or three times the father said he would whip the life out of him, the boy pleading, "Father, don't whip me any more." The next morning his swollen face gave evidence of the ordeal through which he had passed; and feeling bad he returned to his bed, saying to his sister he did not know why his father whipped him so. After he had been in bed a short time Meara made him get up and feed the stock, and on his return to the house whipped him again, and sent him to the field. Not long after this he brought him in, and commenced whipping him with the stock of a large black-snake whip about a yard long; then laid him on the hot stove (the daughter was baking biscuit at the time), the boy pleading all the while, "Father, don't burn me, don't burn me." He screamed very loud. The skin from his feet and back stuck to the stove, making the room very offensive. Meara would not allow a door or window to be opened. He knocked the boy down with the butt end of the whip stock several times. He then took him to his mother's room, and the children never saw him again. This is the testimony of Sarah Meara, fourteen years of age. Maggie Meara, a bright little girl, seven years old, said to the coroner's jury: "Father whipped brother with a whip; he put brother on the hot stove; he laid him down; he cried when he was put on the stove; there was a fire in the stove; he laid him on his back on the hot stove; brother tried to get away; his clothes were all off; father made him take them off himself; father hit brother on the head; he hit him lots of times; he then threw him in the shed; he then walked back and stood up by the side of the wall; he whipped him, and then took him into mother's room; I never saw him more; father told me not to say anything about it, or he would whip me; I loved my brother; father whipped me sometimes with a whip." Afterward the boy was taken to his mother's room, where she lay sick with an infant one day old. Meara in her presence used the whip on him for a number of minutes, the child dodging around the room

to avoid the blows, pleading, "Don't whip me, father, please don't; I will work." At last he stopped and told him to put on his shirt. The boy made an effort and failed, saying, "I cannot see it, I cannot see it; no, father, I cannot see you," and fell to the floor dying. Meara said, "Have I killed him?" The sick wife, the only human witness to the awful scene, replied, "Yes, you have; you have finished him." Meara then bathed him with whisky, tried to have him drink some, threw some over him, and labored to revive him. Failing in this, he cried, "Have I killed him?" After rubbing him for a half hour the boy lifted his hand, moved his lips and was dead. He then pushed the body under the mother's bed, where it remained till near midnight, when Meara laid him on a sheet, with his clothes on, drew his cap over his face, pinned the sheet closely around him, and taking him in his arms, carried the remains of his murdered son to the previously prepared grave, about four rods south of the house, and buried him five and a half feet deep. So complete had this work been done that the soil was replaced in its natural position. This severity of the father to the son was because he said the boy would tell lies, and would not work. The other members of the family said he was a good boy, and only told falsehoods when his father made him own to things he had not done, to avoid greater punishment. After Mrs. Meara was able to go out she made an effort to find the grave of her son, but failed. She told him so, and he replied, "I don't think you could." The day after the murder Meara posted notices in Gilman, written by himself, stating his son had run away, and offered a reward for his return. The neighbors suspecting something wrong at Meara's, June 29 so stated to George B. Winter and Isaac McCourtie, of Onarga, who the next day unearthed this atrocious affair. A sufficient statement was by them obtained from the eldest daughter, who was interviewed at school, to satisfy them of the truth of the rumor. The girl was brought to town, the father at once arrested, and search made for the body. Meara was allowed to go home that night, being secretly watched by a number of men all night. The next day a large number of citizens from Gilman and Onarga searched the premises. Many gave up and went home before noon, and others came, and the search went on. Meara was taken back to Onarga during the forenoon. At no time did he make any effort to escape; he feared being lynched, and asked the officers to protect him. He went unmanacled about the village with the officer. Mrs. Meara denied all knowledge of the affair till she knew he was in the custody of the law. She said, "I knew Martin was a passionate man, and our lives



were in danger." A partial examination was had before Justice Amerinan, hoping the daughter would tell the court the same she had Winter and McCourtie; but the moment she entered the courtroom and the eyes of her father were upon her she was dumb; not a word could be got from her. Late in the afternoon the men began to go home; nothing had been accomplished, either in the courtroom or on the farm. At last a small piece of clay, smoothly cut on one side, was picked up. This belonged several feet below the surface, and led to a thorough investigation at that place. By forcing sharp sticks into the ground till the grave was found the body was soon exhumed. When this news reached town the perpetrator of this foul deed was talking to some men about the suspicions that he had made way with his boy. While thus engaged McCourtie told him the body was found. He appealed to McCourtie to have mercy upon him. The reply came, "Why do you ask me for mercy, when you had none for your boy when you killed him?" Meara said, "I whipped him to death." Irons were then put on him, and he was put under close guard. While in charge of the officer he said, if he had it to do again, he would fix it so no one would find the grave. There were strong indications that he would be lynched that night, but better counsel prevailed and the people dispersed, and under the cover of an approaching thunderstorm he was removed, by special constable Thomas Robinson and his assistants, to a wagon a half a mile away, and delivered to the sheriff at Watseka early the next day. The excitement increased day by day until, on the fifth day, the death of Martin Meara occurred as has already been related on page 40 of this work.

In 1878 Goodrich Marshall, in making a ditch about fifty rods northeast of the Lehigh graveyard, discovered the skeletons of two human beings. The ditch was along the margin of a "bottomless bog." The bones were about one and a half feet below the surface, and extending as much farther down. The smaller of the two, supposed to be that of a woman, was farther in the bog, and in a partly sitting position. The other was about six feet from it, and on its side. Nearly all the smaller bones were decayed, and readily crumbled on exposure to the air. The large bones and skulls of each were in a good state of preservation. Immediately beneath where the stomach of each must have lain was a quantity of watermelon seeds (recognized as such by visitors). The larger must have been a man above medium size, and the smaller a boy, or if of the opposite sex, a medium-sized woman. There is no tradition of any event of the kind ever occurring in the neighborhood, and no

clue has been found to the mystery. No marks of violence were discoverable; no fragments of clothing, not a button or a knife was found. It is possible they were travelers through the country at a very early time; were murdered and thrust beneath the surface of this quagmire. It is possible they were made away with during the building of the railroad in 1853-4, when there was a rough set of men employed, some of whom would dare to commit any kind of crime. The mystery will probably never be solved. The skull of the smaller person and some bones are in possession of the writer.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

Mrs. Lydia Maria Boyd, Del Rey, is one of the oldest settlers in this part of the county. She was born in Chautauqua county, New York, March 18, 1810. Her parents were Samuel and Lydia Ayers. Her twin-brother, John Carey, graduated in the same class with Daniel Webster. Mrs. Boyd herself is an old lady of remarkable presence, and has possessed strong mental qualities. When she was twelve years old her parents removed to Mason county, West Virginia. Here her father died. Mrs. Boyd was married to her first husband (Ira Lindsey) January 13, 1832. They lived in Mason county about two years, when they removed to Iroquois county in 1834, and took up and settled upon the land now occupied by the family. This land Mr. Lindsey entered as soon as it came into market. Their children were: Virginia T., James S., Benjamin F. and Adaline A. James died soon after graduating with honor from Lombard University. The eldest daughter married Francis Walker, of Champaign. Benjamin F. now lives on the same farm with his mother. Mr. Lindsey died April 3, 1844. His widow married Dr. Boyd in October, 1845. He died in March, 1865. B. F. Lindsey married Miss Frances Wiswell in March, 1865. They have five children. Ira Lindsey was the first justice of the peace west of Spring creek.

Hamilton Jefferson (deceased), was born in Alexandria, Virginia, May 1, 1798. His father, George Jefferson, was born in Scotland, and emigrated to America when he was fifteen years old. His mother (Anna) was a daughter of Sir Harry Glenlyn; she was married in England, and arrived in this country in 1796. Two sons were born to this couple. Thomas, the younger, died early. When Hamilton was eleven years old his father and mother both died, leaving him alone in the world. Though the relationship between the subject of this sketch and Thomas Jefferson was remote, nevertheless both descended from the same stock. Hamilton lived with an uncle in Alexandria until the commencement of the war with Great Britain, when he ran away and

enlisted. He served throughout the war, was in several actions, and at its close went to Philadelphia. There he worked for two years in a cigar manufactory. He next went to Cincinnati, and in 1820 was married to Mrs. Sarah Sayres, whose maiden name was Jones. They lived in Virginia till 1836, when they moved to Illinois, and settled first near Georgetown, in Vermilion county. In 1837 they came to this county, and fixed their home on the banks of Spring creek, in Onarga township, on Sec. 24, T. 26, R. 14. They brought eight children—four sons and four daughters. Of these only two are living: Thomas, residing in Deadwood, Dakota; and Hannah, who married Moses Oppy, and now lives in Kansas. His wife died in Virginia in 1858, while there on a visit. He celebrated his second marriage with Nancy (Darby) Eoff, relict of Garrett Eoff, January 9, 1859. They had one daughter (Cincinnati M.), who was born March 8, 1860. In 1873 he moved from his farm to Onarga, where he had previously resided between 1865 and 1868. In an early day he held the office of postmaster, and served one term as county commissioner. He was reared "after the straitest sect" of Scotch Presbyterians, whose rigid discipline caused him to conceive a strong dislike of that denomination, and when he was twenty-three years old he united with the M. E. church. Toward the close of his life his sentiments were largely tinged with Universalism. He was a Royal Arch Mason for many years. He died, much esteemed, September 29, 1876.

Annt Diana Harper, Onarga, was born in Franklin county, Ohio, October 11, 1816, and is a daughter of Reuben and Sallie (Reed) Skeels. September 29, 1836, she was married to Mr. Alexander Harper, a native of Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, born October 16, 1808. In the fall of 1837, with her husband, she came to Iroquois county, Illinois, and settled in what is now Onarga. He immediately entered land and permanently located where he lived engaged in farming and stock-raising up to the time of his death. She is still living on the old homestead. Her husband died February 15, 1845. She is one of the pioneers of this county, and is in possession of a remarkable memory, and from her much of the early history of this county has been obtained. She is one of the pioneer log cabin school teachers of this county. She became disabled in one of her limbs, supposed by physicians to have been caused by spinal affection, and from which for many years she suffered greatly, not knowing what it was to have one night's sleep for thirteen years, and not being able to walk for twenty-nine years; she is now just able to walk. She has been a member of the M. E. church for nearly fifty-two years, and her faith in Christ has supported and been her shield through all her suffering and trials, and



has brought her out more than conqueror. Her account of pioneer life in fighting wolves from poultry and young pigs, is certainly interesting, as these ravenous animals and deer were the principal inhabitants of the prairie.

Tom Lindsey, farmer and stock-raiser, Del Rey, is a son of Roland Lindsey, and was born November 28, 1823, in West Virginia. At about the age of fifteen years, with his parents, he came to Illinois, and settled in Knox county; he, however, soon after came to Iroquois county, Illinois, where he made his home with his uncle, Mr. Ira Lindsey, which brings him here in the fall of 1839, though his uncle had been here a few years previous. The county was, at the time Tom came here, very new, occupied mostly by deer and wolves, which he hunted with great success; the latter paid, especially as their scalps were valuable for paying taxes, the sheriff carrying them to Springfield on horseback, where he went yearly to pay the state tax. In 1845 he went to Washington, Tazewell county, Illinois, and engaged in the business of blacksmithing. From there he went to Wisconsin, but in 1848 returned to this county, and in company with Mr. Seneca Amsbary, bought and put up the first saw-mill on Spring creek, and began the manufacture of timber, with which the pioneers could build houses to take the place of their first cabins. He also engaged in farming and stock-raising. In 1849 he married Miss Caroline Grice, who died about sixteen months after, leaving an infant child, which has since died. June 28, 1860, he married his second wife, Miss Bettie Hall, who was born in Mason county, West Virginia, September 18, 1844, and came to this county in 1853. Mr. Lindsey now owns 145 acres of excellent land, on which is a powerful flowing artesian well. He is now living in a fine residence on Sec. 2, T. 25, R. 10 E. He has three children living: William A., Lizzie P. and Tom. He is now, and has been for about two years, suffering with a disease of the eyes which almost blinds him.

Robert R. Skeels, farmer and stock-raiser, Onarga, is a son of Mr. Henry Skeels, one of the pioneers of this county, and was born January 30, 1842, in what is now Onarga township. He was born and raised a pioneer child. His school was the pioneer log cabin, with seats made from split logs with the flat sides turned up. He was brought up to farming and stock-raising, as well as deer and wolf hunting, as these were the principal occupations engaged in by the early settlers of those days. November 17, 1861, he married Miss Susannah Riner, who was born in Warren county, Indiana, September 15, 1842. At the age of seven years, with her father, Mr. Daniel Riner, she came to Iroquois county, and hence is entitled to the name

of "old settler." After his marriage Mr. Skeels engaged in farming for himself, and has followed the business since that time, about two years of the time being spent in Kansas, where he bought and improved a farm. Not liking Kansas, he returned and settled near the old home in Onarga. He now owns 127 acres of land in Secs. 29 and 30, T. 26, R. 14, and has built for himself and family a very comfortable and pleasant residence. He is one of the men who have witnessed this county grow to its present greatness. He has for the last few years been engaged in buying and shipping fat stock to market, in addition to his permanent business of farming and stock-raising. He has two children: Mary A. and Daniel H. He is a member of the M. E. church; a republican in politics and a man of strictly temperate habits.

Irvin Reuben Skeels, farmer, fruit-raiser and dairyman, Onarga, is a son of Reuben and Hannah (Kirk) Skeels, and was born in Onarga township, Iroquois county, Illinois, October 12, 1846. His early youth was spent engaged in farming, stock-raising and going to school. He attended one term at Grand Prairie Seminary in Onarga, in 1865, but left in March, 1865, and enlisted in Co. H, 58th Ill. Vol. Inf., and served one year. After returning home he engaged in farming. March 23, 1868, he married Miss Laura A., daughter of Dr. Samuel Turner, one of the first physicians of this county. She was born in this county, August 16, 1849. In January, 1875, he moved on his present farm, about one mile south of Onarga village, where he now lives. He has two children: Leroy C., born December 24, 1868, and Louis G., born March 16, 1874.

John R. Loudon, farmer, Onarga, was one of the earliest settlers on Spring creek. He is the son of George and Mary Loudon, and was born August 22, 1814, in South Carolina. The family name is an old and distinguished one, being prominent in the annals of the American Revolution. One of the larger counties in Virginia is named "Loudon." When Mr. Loudon was very young his parents removed to Washington county, Indiana, where they lived and died. The father was killed at a house-raising by falling timber. After his father's death he was bound out until sixteen years of age to a farmer. Having served out his apprenticeship, he worked by the month until he became twenty-two years of age. Mr. Loudon was married, August 18, 1836, to Miss Elizabeth Henry, by whom he had ten children, five of whom are living: Mary A., Nancy J., Margaret E., William W. and De Witt C. Mrs. Loudon died March 14, 1869. December 31, 1872, Mr. Loudon married Mrs. Julia A. Beebe, whose maiden name was Bostwick. She was born in Kent, Litchfield county, Connecticut, and is the daughter of Charles Whittlesey Bostwick. Mrs. Loudon has two daughters by

her first husband: Amelia J. and Lucy J. Mr. Loudon's father, and Mrs. Loudon's grandfather, Lee, served through the war of 1812. Mr. Loudon came to Iroquois county in the spring of 1842, and settled on the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 6, T. 25, R. 14 W., where he has since remained, engaged in farming. The house in which they now reside was built in the summer of 1854. Mr. and Mrs. Loudon are members of the Presbyterian church, in Onarga, of which he is an elder.

Cyrus S. Pangborn, farmer, Onarga, was the youngest child of John and Miranda (Miller) Pangborn, and was born near Columbus, Ohio, February 5, 1822. He was reared a cultivator of the soil, and has always followed that calling. May 22, 1845, he was married to Mary Jane Gilmore. She died on the 9th of August following. In the same year he emigrated to Iroquois county and settled in Onarga township, where he now lives, on Sec. 17, T. 26, R. 14. July 5, 1849, he was married to Mary Taylor, daughter of Alonzo Taylor. She died May 7, 1850. His third marriage occurred August 19, 1852, with Rosanna Ryner. Seven children have been the issue of this marriage, six of whom are living: Frank E., Josephine H., Licetta V., Jesse (dead), Melvin, Mary M. and Quincy J. Mr. Pangborn was converted when fourteen years of age, and has been a member of the M. E. church since that time. In politics he is a supporter of republican principles. He owns 205 acres of well-improved land, valued at \$7,000.

Jesse Drake, farmer and stock-raiser, Onarga, was born in Pike county, Ohio, January 29, 1824, and when about fourteen years old, with his parents, he removed to Vermilion county, Indiana, and engaged in farming. His educational advantages were very poor, the country at that time being thinly settled, and school kept only on the old subscription principle. January 24, 1847, he married Miss Hannah Riner, who is a native of Virginia, and was born December 16, 1828. Her father, Mr. Daniel Riner, was born also in old Virginia, October 19, 1796. He came to this county in 1850, and is still living on the farm he then entered. Mr. Drake came to this county in April, 1850. The county at that time was new and sparsely settled. His nearest market then was Chicago, from where he hauled the lumber to finish building his first house in Onarga township. The land that was then inhabited only by deer and other wild animals is now covered with fields of golden grain; railroads pass through the county in every direction, and towns have grown up along their lines. He then worked out by the day to pay for his first 40 acres of land. He now owns 210 acres of well improved land in Secs. 33 and 34, T. 26, R. 14. He has six children living: Martha E., Daniel J., Mary L., Sarah E., Frank M. and Emma E. He is strictly temperate and a strong republican.



John, son of John Ricketts, farmer and stock-raiser, Onarga, was born in Dearborn county, Indiana, April 11, 1824. Soon after his birth his parents removed to Vermilion county, in that state, where his early youth was spent with them, engaged in farming, stock-raising and attending, to a limited extent, the old subscription schools of those days. March 5, 1848, he married Miss Anna Drake, who was born in Pike county, Ohio, May 15, 1828. He there engaged in farming as a day laborer, till 1850, when he came to Iroquois county, Illinois, where he rented land till 1854, and then moved into his first house which he built on land he had previously bought. He permanently located on Sec. 4, T. 25, R. 14, and engaged in farming and stock-raising. Although he is not one of the pioneers of this county he is one of those who went on the wild prairie and made a home. He judiciously selected for his farm, on which to make his future home, the highest point of observation in all that part of the county, and there drove the wolves from his door and swayed the scepter of his authority over his prairie home, and, after patient waiting for thirty years, now has the satisfaction of seeing this county one of the finest in the state. He has eight children, all living: Mahala, Mary, Melvina, Francis A., Malina, Icabina, Alvin J. and Jesse. He now owns 215 acres of land as the result of his own industry, hard labor and close application to business. He is one of that class of honorable men whose word is as good as his bond.

James E. Owen, grocer and brick and tile manufacturer, Onarga, was born in Birmingham, England, December 25, 1843. His mother's maiden name was Ann Elliman. He emigrated to America with his father, James Owen, in 1849. September 24, 1861, he enlisted in Co. C, 57th Ill. Vol. He participated in the capture of Fort Donelson, and in the battle of Shiloh, at which latter place he was seriously wounded in the left leg. He fought at Corinth, Mississippi, October 4 and 5, 1862, and served throughout the Atlanta campaign, being in action at Resaca. His military service was terminated by the march to the sea, and he was mustered out at Savannah, Georgia, December 30, 1864. He came home and engaged in farming till 1868. He celebrated his nuptials December 20, 1867, with Miss Nancy H. Coblantz. One daughter was the fruit of this marriage. His wife died October 5, 1868, and he was married again, August 27, 1873, to Martha Harper. He has held the office of village trustee of Onarga the past three years. He is at present engaged in the manufacture of brick and drain tile at Del Rey, in company with F. P. Beach; name of firm, Beach & Owen. He is also a member of the firm of Owen Brothers, doing a grocery and provision business in Onarga.

Samuel Brown, farmer and stock-raiser, Onarga, came to Onarga township, Iroquois county, Illinois, in 1851, with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elias Brown, from Indiana, where he was born April 28, 1840. In his early youth his education was much neglected, but by an industrious application to study he has acquired a fair education. August 7, 1862, he volunteered his services to his country, and enlisted in Co. D, 113th Ill. Vol. Inf., and immediately went south to participate in the great struggle then going on between freedom and slavery, and at the battle of Guntown, Mississippi, was shot through the leg by the rebels, and by them taken prisoner and put in hospital one month for treatment. From there he was taken to Cahawba, Alabama, and there remained one year, and in his lame and crippled condition suffered the hardships of rebel prison life. Though sixteen years have nearly passed away since he was wounded he still feels its effects. In the summer of 1865 he was honorably discharged, and returned home and engaged in farming. October 25, 1866, he married Miss Clara, daughter of William Coyner, an early settler of this county. They have three children: Frederick L., Frank G. and Nellie E. He is now actively engaged in stock-raising and farming, and owns 177 acres of land, the most of it earned by his own industry and close attention to business. His residence and its surroundings are evidences of his thrift.

Two English brothers, Abraham and John Doolittle (the latter dying childless) settled in Massachusetts in 1634. The first shortly after moved to the New Haven colony, where he became a prominent man, being chosen sheriff of the county, one of the committee to superintend the affairs of the settlement of Wallingford, and a member of the vigilance committee in the time of king Philip's war, besides holding other honorable positions. The fifth in the line of descent, named Elkanah, grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was a graduate of Yale College, and tutor of Greek, and in company with a classmate, Hitchcock, started an academy at Sunbury, Georgia, prior to 1790. Elkanah, son of Milton and Mary J. (Jones) Doolittle, was born in New York city, July 16, 1829. He attended a grammar school at Newark, New Jersey, till seventeen years of age. He completed his studies in surveying and engineering in a private school in New York city. Immediately he was employed in railroad surveying, and also in constructing the sewerage of the city of Newark, New Jersey. In the spring of 1851 he came west and assisted in surveys of the Illinois Central railroad, and finally located near Onarga. In 1854 he celebrated his marriage with Triphenia Pangborn, daughter of Judge Thomas M. Pangborn. Four sons were the issue of this union. The eldest died when a little more than a year old. The survivors

are: Milton, Thomas E., and Warren E. His wife dying in 1872, he married in the following year, Miranda, another daughter of Judge Pangborn. In 1858 he was elected county surveyor of Iroquois county, and held the office one term. Residing temporarily in Connecticut, his former home, in 1862 he recruited company A, 20th Conn. Vol., under authority dated July 11, and was enrolled on August 15, as second lieutenant, and mustered in September 8, at New Haven. Shortly after the battle of Chancellorsville, where he fought, he was promoted to first lieutenant of company D, and commissioned June 26, 1863. He fought at Gettysburg, and in January, 1864, owing to his wife's rapidly failing health, resigned his commission. After the war he began farming at his old home near Onarga, and has since continued it. From 1873 to 1877 he was merchandising in that town. Captain Doolittle is genial, but retiring, and a stranger to display. In his keeping are many curious and pleasing heirlooms of his Puritan ancestry.

John C. Culver, grocer, Onarga, was the youngest son of Asa and Lydia (Conger) Culver, and was born in Cayuga county, New York, December 10, 1820. When four years old he was taken and reared by Silas Conger. He worked at farming and clearing land until the age of thirty. In 1832 he went with Conger to Huron (now Erie) county, Ohio, and thence to Richland county; in 1846 he settled in Calhoun county, Michigan, and two years later in the lumber region, establishing himself in Huron county, where he operated a saw-mill. In 1849 he removed to Porter county, Indiana, and in 1851 to Iroquois county, Illinois, and engaged in milling at Del Rey. In the fall of 1855 he came to Onarga and opened a lumber yard, but at the end of three years quit this for the grocery business, taking Addison Lockwood in company. A few years afterward he sold his interest to his partner. In 1869 he associated C. L. Knight with himself in the same trade. This firm was dissolved after two or three years, and Mr. Culver carried on a similar business with James Hawk about the same length of time, when he bought out his partner, and has since continued merchandising alone. He was married November 4, 1846, to Clarissa Shaver, who died March 19, 1860. His second marriage he celebrated with Harriet M. Messer, January 1, 1861. The offspring of this union are two sons and two daughters. He has been assessor of Onarga township once, and in 1866 he was assistant assessor of internal revenue. He is an Odd-Fellow and a Knight Templar. From an old line democrat he has become independent in politics.

Hiram W. Lawhead, photographer, Onarga, was the oldest son of James and Jane (Boyd) Lawhead, and was born in Holmes county,



Ohio, June 4, 1844. When very young his parents removed to Illinois, and settled at Middleport, in this county. His father was a physician, and practiced there a few years, but his health failing, he settled on a farm near Plato, in the hope of relinquishing his profession. In a little while he died, when the subject of this sketch was but four years old. Young Lawhead received such an education as was furnished by the district schools of the day; he added to this two terms at the high school in Kankakee, besides a full commercial course, which he completed in the spring of 1862. He immediately devoted himself to learning photography, and at length became an accomplished artist. This business has since engrossed his whole attention. He has been in communion with the M. E. church the past ten years. In political sentiment and practice he is an independent.

Adison Harper, farmer and stock-raiser, Onarga, was born May 16, 1807. The early part of his life, up to the age of twenty-eight years, was spent in the hill country of old Virginia, farming and attending school. He then came to Clinton county, Indiana, and there remained about twenty years, engaged in farming. While there, December 6, 1838, he married Miss Mary Sherrard, a native of Butler county, Ohio, born March 19, 1817. In 1852 he came to Iroquois county, Illinois; entered land in Sec. 13, T. 26, R. 14, in what is now Onarga township, and permanently located and actively engaged in farming and stock-raising. At the time he settled where he now lives he was far separated from markets and mills, no railroads being then built in this part of the state; neither were there then any wagon roads, but winding trails over the highest ridges, fording rivers at the safest places. He has lived here to see this county grow up to its present greatness. He owns 255 acres of good land, watered by flowing artesian wells, all earned by his own industry and close attention to business. He has seven children: Martha J., Amanda, Ginevra A., William A. and Mary C., living; Andrew, who died in the service of his country at Holly Springs; and Samuel, who died at St. Louis, Missouri. Samuel's remains were brought home and interred in Onarga cemetery. They were both members of Co. D, 113th Ill. Vol. Inf.

William P. Pierson, retired, Onarga, whose portrait appears in this work, and the first man to commence business in Onarga, was born in Leroy, Genesee county, New York, in 1811. The roots of his ancestral tree strike down deep and near the primitive rock of the republic. His two ancestors, Daniel Buell and Rev. Abraham Pierson, emigrated to this country from England, the former in 1630, and the latter in 1640. Rev. Abraham Pierson was a graduate from Cambridge University, England, at South Compton, Long Island, and at Brandford,

Connecticut. Having labored successfully in these fields for twenty-five years, he organized a large company with the view of founding a colony in the then wilds of New Jersey. This colony, in its form, was an organized church, of which Rev. Pierson was pastor. They purchased the land now occupied by Newark, and in 1667 laid the foundations of that now beautiful city. Rev. Abraham Pierson, Jr., acted as co-pastor with and successor to his father for twenty years, when he resigned and went to Connecticut, where he became pastor of the church at Killingworth. In 1701 he was elected first president of Yale College. He died in 1707, and a statue has recently been erected to his memory in New Haven. Mr. Pierson, of Onarga, is one of the numerous descendants of the seventh generation from the original emigrants, Buell and Pierson. Mr. Pierson's ancestors shared largely in the dangers and trials incident to the early Indian wars in New England, to the revolutionary war, and to the war of 1812. Mr. Pierson left his native town in 1831; graduated at the University of Vermont in 1839; studied and practiced law several years in Kentucky, and then, in consequence of failing health, in 1849 purchased and located on a considerable tract of land in Jefferson county, Iowa. Finding that waiting for land to rise in value, with corn at six cents per bushel and pork at \$1.50 per 100 pounds constituted a rather slow business for a native New Yorker, he closed out his interests in Iowa in 1853. In the same year he married Miss Mary T. Condit, daughter of Rev. R. W. Condit, D.D., of Oswego, New York, and went to Chicago to engage in business. The Illinois Central railroad was then in process of construction, and high expectations were justly entertained of its ultimate effects upon the destiny of Chicago, and indeed of the whole state of Illinois. Among the numerous stations soon to spring up along the line of this great road, Champaign was regarded as the most promising. In the spring of 1854 the terminus of the Chicago branch was at Spring creek, and freight could not reach Champaign by rail until fall. Hearing favorable reports from the employés of the road in regard to Onarga, and the high character of the old settlers in that region, Mr. Pierson concluded to locate there until fall, and then move on to Champaign. One short train a day, made up of freight and passenger cars, was sufficient to do all the business of the road at that time. Mr. Pierson chartered three cars, and loading them with such goods as he deemed suitable for a new station, he, with his good wife, June 22, 1854, started for what was to him and his a new world. He found the town of Onarga to consist of three or four shanties. Mechanics were just putting the finishing touches to the depot buildings. The post-office had just been opened in a little cigar and candy shop on the east

side of the railroad, by D. B. Peck. Moore and Miles were then erecting the building on the corner on the east side, and now occupied as a meat market, for a dry-goods store. The first sale made by Mr. Pierson in the town was for material to complete this building. When the railroad finally reached Champaign, Mr. Pierson found that many business men had their eyes already on that point, and he moreover thought he saw clear indications that Onarga would prove one of the most inviting fields for business enterprise on the line of the road. He therefore, though doing but little at that time, concluded to remain. By way of showing how well founded these expectations were, Mr. Pierson states that while his sales during his first year at Onarga were less than \$3,000, they exceeded \$40,000 the third year. At this time all the business was done on the east side of the railroad. In the fall of 1854 Mr. Pierson built an office in the tall prairie grass on the west side, on the corner now occupied by the Pierson Block; hence the point in the following story that he tells of his wife: He one day observed her scattering ashes in the prairie grass around the office, and on his inquiring what was up, she replied—"I am trying to kill the grass to make the surroundings look more like business." In the summer of 1857 Mr. Pierson built and occupied the house on the corner north of the Pierson Block, and now occupied by Isaac Amermand. In the fall of 1858 he erected the store building now constituting "No. 1" in the aforesaid block. In the meantime, the great financial crash of 1857 came and laid the whole country prostrate. During the three following years the value of property constantly declined, so that no trade could be carried on with profit or even with safety. Every dealer in building material on the Chicago branch of the Illinois Central railroad, with one or two exceptions, and nearly all dealers in this department of trade in Chicago, failed. The main source of weakness in Mr. Pierson's case at this critical time was in the fact of his having an unusually large stock on hand when the panic came. All that he needed was *time to reduce stock*, and to collect outstanding claims, which were not large. These objects were successfully accomplished by three years of hard work without profit. He could not, however, have done this had he not had first-class credit at a few solid houses in Chicago, who told him to *go ahead*. This credit arose from the reputation Mr. Pierson had of keeping his business well in hand, and of living within his means. On this subject Mr. Pierson says: "I have had creditors, who were themselves daily expecting to be pushed to the wall, come on with the intention of securing what they could. As they looked at my little house, noting how I lived, they said: 'Well, Pierson, you can make more out of this stock than we can; we shall have to let you



alone; you will come out all right.' That little house and the careful management of my good wife were what saved me from bankruptcy. Without the confidence inspired by these means I should certainly have failed, although I was at the time worth very much more than I owed. A blessing on the shanties that are paid for, and on the good wives who know how to make in them cheerful and happy homes, until something better can be honestly provided for." When business finally revived, in 1860, Mr. Pierson found himself in good shape, both as regards credit and capital, to largely extend his trade. His business, almost unsought, branched out in so many directions that it was impossible for one person to look after it all, especially during the war. He consequently divided his business, and became a silent partner in two or three firms in his own town. He also, at different times, had branch houses at Watseka, Ludlow and Chatsworth. These different branches were in the main successful in the accomplishment of their object, i.e. in working off surplus and unavailable stock, and were generally paying institutions, contrary to ordinary experience in such cases. In 1868 and 1869 Mr. Pierson shared his business lots on the west side with other parties, and the building known as the Pierson Block was erected. His health rapidly failing, Mr. Pierson, during the fall and winter of 1870-71, traveled in Europe, visiting England, Scotland, Gibraltar, Italy, the beautiful cities of Sicily, encountered without serious detriment the *terrors* of old Scylla and Charybdis, and returned to Onarga the following spring. Soon after his return he retired from all business connections. Considering that the most suitable place to pass a contented old age is among the people where the active and vigorous years of his life have been spent, Mr. Pierson proceeded to erect for himself and wife a home in a forest of evergreens that he had planted many years before, and christened it "Evergreen Home." Here Mr. and Mrs. Pierson are passing the later years of their active and useful lives. It is to be presumed that Mr. Pierson had an eye to the interior as well as the exterior home when he christened it "Evergreen Home." Regarded in either light, the name is exceedingly appropriate.

John C. Ramsey, farmer and breeder of thoroughbred short-horns, Onarga, is a native of Preble county, Ohio, and was born September 23, 1824. At the early age of twelve years he was left an orphan, and at the age of seventeen began to learn the blacksmith trade, and followed that business till 1853, at which date he came to Iroquois county, Illinois, and bought a farm in Sec. 15, T. 26, R. 14, in Onarga township. August 7, 1862, he enlisted as first sergeant in Co. D, 113th Ill. Vol. Inf. He was captured by the rebels on board the Blue Wing, on

the Mississippi river, near the mouth of the Arkansas, but was soon after paroled and exchanged. He immediately rejoined his regiment, but was again taken prisoner near Ripley, Mississippi, in May, 1864, and suffered for three months the horrors of prison life in Andersonville, from which he made his escape; but was recaptured by rebel hounds, placed in jail for some time, and finally taken to Lawton Prison, Georgia, where he remained till paroled and mustered out of the United States service as a prisoner of war. He then returned to his home, which, during his three years' absence, had been managed and carried on by his wife and hired hand,—the latter receiving more money per month on his farm than he received from Uncle Sam for soldiering. In 1866 he turned his attention to breeding graded short-horns, but in 1869 he engaged in breeding thoroughbred short-horns, and is now the owner of a very fine herd, comprising forty-one head of thoroughbreds, and is also buying and feeding yearly a number of grades and common stock. December 9, 1847, he married Miss Keturah Majors, who died August 5, 1854. He again married, this time, Miss Eliza A. Ramsey, August 13, 1856. She was born February 3, 1828, in Preble county, Ohio. He has two children living: Lucy A. and Gracie M. He now owns, besides his stock, 400 acres of land, a large part of which is the result of his own industry and close attention to business. He is truly one of our self-made men.

Milton Doolittle, hardware and furniture dealer, Onarga, was the second son of Elkanah and Triphenia (Pangborn) Doolittle, and was born December 26, 1855, in Onarga township. He received his education at the Episcopal Academy of Cheshire, Connecticut, and at Grand Prairie Seminary, Onarga. On October 18, 1877, he was united in marriage to Miss Harriet F. Marston, the accomplished daughter of Sanford K. Marston. Their child (Mary Triphenia) was born July 27, 1878. Mr. Doolittle is an independent voter.

Edward L. Marquis, lumber dealer, Onarga, was born in Mount Vernon, Knox county, Ohio, August 20, 1826. His father's christian name was Edward, and his mother's maiden name was Elizabeth Newell. He finished his schooling at the Mount Vernon Academy, and on attaining his majority commenced for himself by traveling for a marble establishment. He has led an active business life; and his employments have been various, and generally profitable. Railroad-ing, photographing, real-estate and patent-right transactions have been some of his occupations. He has traveled extensively in the United States, especially in the west, and has made his home at different times in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana and Illinois. He has been twice married, and has two sons and two daughters. His maternal progenitors were



Wm P. Pierson



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Pilgrims. On his father's side his ancestry is traceable to a titled lady of Welsh parentage.

John B. Clark, fruit-grower, Onarga, was born in Newport, Rhode Island, July 8, 1806, and is the oldest son of George and Desire (Blevin) Clark. In 1817 his father settled in Cincinnati, Ohio, and two years later John went to Lawrenceburg, Dearborn county, Indiana, where he worked as a shop-boy three years. At the end of this time he apprenticed himself for four years to learn the tobacco manufacturer's trade. Leaving Lawrenceburg he went to Cincinnati and lived there three years; he then moved to Manchester and engaged in merchandising, and was in business in that place most of the time for twenty-five years. He was justice of the peace five years, and postmaster altogether twenty years. In 1840, and again in 1850, he was chosen by the whigs to represent Dearborn county in the legislature. In the summer of 1855 his family removed to a farm in Ash Grove, in this county, and some months afterward Mr. Clark, having closed up his business in Manchester, brought a stock of goods to "Pitch-in," the first that were ever sold there. This was before that place was dignified with the euphonious name which it bears. He continued in trade eight years. He was postmaster, town clerk and also justice of the peace several years. In 1864 he left Ash Grove and settled in Onarga, and since that time has given his attention to raising fruit. His first marriage took place with Sophia Albright, April 24, 1827. Four sons and eight daughters were the product of this union. These grew to manhood and womanhood, and all but three are still living. Two of the sons were in the army in the late war. James M. was a member of Co. F, 25th Ill. Vol., and died at Corinth, Mississippi, of typhoid pneumonia, June 23, 1862. Calvin R. served the term of three years in the 76th Ill. Vol. He was engaged at Jackson, Mississippi, May 13, 1863; he bore a part in the sieges of Vicksburg and Mobile, terminating his active service in the last battle of the war—the brilliant charge on Fort Blakeley. He was promoted for gallant conduct in the last engagement. Mr. Clark's wife having died, December 11, 1866, he was married again, October 6, 1870, to Mrs. Frances M. Torrey, widow of Levi F. Torrey. He has been a member of the M. E. church fifty-seven years, and has held official connection therein much of the time. He was an ardent whig, and is now a firm supporter of the republican party.

David Bullington, farmer and stock-raiser, Onarga, came to this county in 1855, from Warren county, Indiana, where he was born, September 8, 1833. January 31, 1858, he married Miss Margaret A., daughter of Henry Skeels. She was born in this county, in Onarga township, April 9, 1840, and is one of those who know what pioneer

life is, being one of the early pupils taught in log cabins. Mr. Bullington, after his marriage, engaged in farming in this county till 1867, when he went to Green county, Missonri, and settled near Springfield, where he lived about ten years, engaged in farming, but, longing for the society of old friends and surroundings, he returned to Onarga, where he now lives, engaged in farming and stock-raising. He has eight children: Sarah A., Ida L., Mary E., Emma J., Margaret A., Elmyra, Susanah E. and Minnie E. He, his wife and the three oldest children are members of the M. E. church, and politically he is a republican. His parents, Mr. James and Sarah M. (Garrison) Bullington, were married May 5, 1829; the former was born in Virginia, February 26, 1808, and the latter in New Jersey, December 22, 1808, and came to Iroquois county in 1856. The old gentleman is still living and has been a member of the M. E. church for the last fifty-four years. During his youth he learned the trade of a blacksmith, which he followed many years. His wife, with whom he lived many years, died, June 13, 1875, from a cancer in her face. He is now spending his declining years with one of his sons on his old home.

James Owen, fruit-grower, Onarga, was born in Birmingham, England, November 13, 1815. His father, George Owen, was a blacksmith, and he learned the trade under him. In 1849 he emigrated to America, and stopping first in Brooklyn, New York, he worked there nine months at his trade. He then removed to Mason county, Illinois, and engaged in farming five years. In 1855 he settled in this county on a farm of 120 acres east of Onarga. At the same time, in company with his brother John, he put up a blacksmith shop in Onarga, the first in the place. A little later the younger brothers, Abram and William, came and took an interest in the business, which embraced, in addition, the sale of hardware and the manufacture of the celebrated Owen stove. At the end of two years he withdrew from the firm, since which time he has been employed either in farming or in horticulture. In 1867 he removed to Onarga, where he now resides. He was married, July 28, 1839, to Ann Elliman. They have reared four sons and two daughters. Two of the former, William F. and James, were soldiers in the late war. The first of these was in the 9th Ill. Cav., and died February 18, 1866, from injuries received by being crowded with his horse from a high bridge.

George H. Owen, grocer, Onarga, was born in Birmingham, England, April 26, 1846. His parents, James and Ann (Elliman) Owen, emigrated to this country in 1849. After a residence in Mason county, Illinois, they moved to this county and settled on a farm near Onarga. Here the subject of this sketch remained till 1866. He has been em-



ployed in farming, brick-making, butchering, and is at present, and has been the past three years, keeping a grocery store in Onarga, in company with his brother James. Owen Brothers is the style of the firm. April 23, 1874, he was united in marriage to Miss Mary A. Peter, who was born January 5, 1845, in Tippecanoe county, Indiana. They have one child, Flora Annie, born October 2, 1876. Mr. Owen is an Odd-Fellow and republican, and his wife is a member of the Presbyterian church.

Horatio Talbert, farmer, Onarga, was born in Onarga township, February 29, 1856, on the same farm where he now lives. January 7, 1879, he married Miss Anna, daughter of William B. Lyman, an old settler of this county, and she was born in Beaver township, in this county, September 17, 1857. They have one child, Lyman Leo. The father of the subject of this sketch, Mr. George W. Talbert, was born at Fort Littleton, Bedford county, Pennsylvania. He was married, February 25, 1852, to Miss Catharine Deyo, of Pickaway county, Ohio, and came to this county in 1853. She died June 18, 1860, and Mr. Talbert died in the service of his country in March, 1862, on Black river. He left to his two children, the subject of this sketch and Albert, his farm, which contains 280 acres in Onarga, all earned by his own hard labor, industry and good management.

Enoch C. Hall, police inagistrate and insurance and collection agent, Onarga, was born September 19, 1815, at Middletown, Connecticut. He was the youngest son of Jonathan and Catherine (Savage) Hall. His father was a farmer, and his youth was passed in the honorable pursuits of husbandry. He first attended the common schools, and then ended his studies in a private high school. From sixteen to eighteen he was learning the silversmith's trade, but his employer failed before his apprenticeship expired and he returned to the farm, working on that summers, and teaching school winters, till he was twenty-five. In 1836 he was appointed school examining committee, and held that responsible position twelve years. In 1840 he was appointed justice of the peace; at the same time he set up in the grocery and provision trade. In 1851 he removed his business to Springfield, Massachusetts; in 1856 he came west and settled near Onarga on an eighty-acre farm of wild land. In 1863 he began merchandising in the village in company with G. G. Webb. He continued in trade thirteen years, changing, in the meantime, his connections and the character of his business more than once. The past three years he has done a general real-estate, loaning, insurance and collection business, and until recently in company with Hon. A. S. Palmer. He has held numerous township, corporation, school and other offices; has been

justice of the peace sixteen years; in 1866 was supervisor, and a member of the building committee who superintended the erection of the court-house at Watseka; was secretary of the sanitary society for the relief of soldiers and their families during the war, and has been an officer of the Iroquois Agricultural Society since its formation fourteen years ago. He was married, October 20, 1839, to Louisa Plum. Four sons were the fruit of this marriage: Wallace, Edward, Dwight and Robert. All these were in the military service in the late rebellion. Wallace died in the blockading squadron off Mobile; Edward was in Co. D, 113th Ill. Vols., and died in front of Vicksburg; Dwight was in the same company three years, and Robert served in the 150th Ill. the last year of the war. Mr. Hall's wife died October 5, 1859. His second matrimonial alliance was consummated with Kate Flagg, September 19, 1860. They have two sons and a daughter.

Orrin S. Haight, farmer and stock-raiser, Onarga, was born in Albany county, New York, January 31, 1829. At the age of sixteen years he left the parental roof, and began for himself by boating on the Hudson river, which occupation he followed two years. He then followed farming three years, and then went to Gloversville, Fulton county, New York, and engaged in the manufacture of gloves, a business for which that place was noted. December 31, 1850, he married Miss Jane Anderson, who was born in Fulton county, New York, May 11, 1835. Soon after he came west and engaged in Perrysville, Indiana, in a grain warehouse and grist mill about four years. He then removed to Vermilion county, Illinois, and farmed a short time, and finally came to Iroquois county, Illinois, where he rented a farm and engaged in farming and stock-raising, but soon bought a farm in Sec. 4, T. 25, R. 14, Onarga, where he permanently located and is following the business he began in this county. He has seven children living: Charles, Isabel, Elena, Edna, Martha A., Ida M. and Orie. He is using all his means for the education of his family, three of whom are now teaching, having been prepared for that business at the Grand Prairie Seminary and Commercial College.

If there is one man more than another possessed of a fine practical brain and a clear mechanical head, that man is George H. Van Neste, who was born May 10, 1826, in the historical Mohawk valley, Montgomery county, New York, on a farm. He is now just in the prime of life, and morally a most exemplary character. Young George worked with his parents until his twenty-first year, then following the natural bent of his mind, a love of tools prompted him to accept a position in a manufacturing establishment at Amsterdam, where his principal work was building fanning mills until September 1, 1850,

when thinking to educate that faculty which was destined to assist him so much in the future on a broader scope, commenced work as a common hand, carpentering and joining; but by dint of an earnest application and an indomitable will Mr. Van Neste rose to the position of a contractor in the spring of 1853, which position was retained until in the fall of 1854, when thinking to better himself came west to Ogle county, Illinois, near Oregon, in September of that year; and after a year and a half's labor there at his trade, moved to Iroquois county, building on Sec. 3, T. 25, R. 10 E., where he was one of the first settlers on the prairie. He has now a splendid farm of two hundred and forty acres, three miles southeast of Del Rey and seven from Onarga. A large saw-mill was then in operation at Del Rey, and no sooner did they learn of Van's ability than they called for help in repairing, who, always ready and agreeable, soon would get things in working order again; and when thoroughly aroused to the fact that a mechanical genius was among them, Van was given complete charge of the mill, made boss and manager in the fall of 1858, and continued in that capacity for two years. Mr. Van Neste then engaged himself in cultivating his farm until the spring of 1872 (moving his family to Onarga the year previous owing to his wife's sickness). When G. H. Van Neste & Co. erected a large flouring mill in the eastern part of Onarga, which, to all appearance was destined to be synonymous with prosperity,—lo! in August, 1873, the boiler burst, and with it blew away a thousand bright hopes and many hard earned dollars. He next purchased the old stand of McElroy's grocery, in October, 1873, and until August, 1878, selling to F. Felker, prosecuted a splendid trade, making many friends and a host of acquaintances. His place of business was and still is known as "Van's corner." He is now engaged in farming and stock-raising. He was married, October 2, 1851, to Miss Emily J. Shottinkirk, in Perth, Fulton county, New York, and prior to her death, which occurred June 8, 1871, six children were born. He was married the second time, April 6, 1873, to Mary E., the widow of Capt. William M. Raymond, a brave and gallant soldier of Co. D, 52d Ind. Vol., who sacrificed his life for his country's liberty at the battle of Nashville. Mr. Van Neste joined the M. E. church in April, 1851, was elected a member of the quarterly conference, July 31, 1861, and recording steward, September, 1872. His wife is also a member. Mr. Van Neste has held the offices of assessor, commissioner, school trustee, school director, and justice of the peace, and is a stalwart member of the republican party.

Howard Lyon, farmer and stock-raiser, Del Rey, is a native of Windsor, Vermont, and was born March 1, 1831. At the age of



twenty-five he left his native state, where he had been raised at farming and attending school. April 22, 1856, he married Miss Betsey Brown, a native of Vermont, and the same year came to Iroquois county, Illinois, and engaged in farming; but not liking the country on account of his health failing, he returned to his native state. While making his return trip the saddest event of his life took place. After crossing the river from Detroit to Windsor, he with his wife walked from the boat to the wharf, where he left her a few minutes, with a request to remain there till he returned from the boat, where he was going to look after some baggage. On his return to the dock he was unable to find her, and immediately began an anxious search, which was prosecuted with almost unendurable anxiety of mind till next morning, when her body was found floating in the river a short distance below the place of landing. It is supposed that she became uneasy while waiting his return and started in search of him, missed the gangplank and fell into the river. In 1859 he again returned to this county and engaged as a hired hand and began to buy a few cattle, and in that way soon got a start which has proved to him very successful, which is evidenced by the fact that he now owns 370 acres of good land where he now lives, actively engaged in farming and stock-raising. February 14, 1864, he married Mrs. Caroline (Merrill) Sanders, of Cincinnati, Ohio, born May 18, 1834. She died May 12, 1879. On March 3, 1880, he married his last wife, Mrs. Eveline Libhart, a native of New York, born near Bainbridge. She came to this county in 1853. He has five children: James A., Edward M., William H., Perry and Robert. His present wife has five children, two boys and three girls.

John W., son of John Grubbs, farmer and stock-raiser, Onarga, is a native of Montgomery, Ohio, and was born on October 18, 1827. His parents' means being very limited, living as they were in the backwoods of a new country, he at a very early age began to work out, beginning at six cents per day. His wages were soon after raised to eight cents per day, which he received all through the next season. After growing up to near manhood he received by the month from \$7 to \$11. At the age of eighteen years he became an apprentice as wagon and carriage-maker, and completed his trade at the age of twenty-one years. He then followed journey work, till on August 15, 1851, he married Miss Lorinda Allen. She was born in Butler county, Ohio, on November 9, 1834. At that time he borrowed \$100 with which to begin housekeeping, and through the kindness of an old friend he began the business of his trade in a full furnished shop, making everything from a wheelbarrow to a wagon, or anything needed on

a farm. He followed the business eight or nine years, but by working constantly and till late hours at night his health became broken down, and he sold out his stock in trade, bought a farm, and engaged in farming; but having previously visited Illinois, felt an irresistible desire to own a home on the prairie, and in 1857 removed to Peoria county, Illinois, where he lost \$1,000 in renting a large farm that wet season (by loss of crops and sickness), and the fall of the same year came to Iroquois county, Illinois, bought a farm, permanently located, and actively engaged in farming and stock-raising. He is the first man who introduced the hedge-fence raising in this county, raising an immense lot of plants for wholesale over this and adjoining counties. He now owns 414 acres of land, three miles east of Onarga village, well ditched with tile, and on which are very fine buildings. He has five children: Keziah, Phineas W., Lervy, Harvey J. and Melissa J.

Judge Charles H. Wood, attorney-at-law, Chicago, is one of the many old settlers of Iroquois who, though having removed from the county, are yet kindly remembered by many and warm friends. It will no doubt be a pleasant surprise to many of his friends, not only of Onarga and Iroquois county, but of central eastern Illinois, to find his portrait gracing the pages of this work. Judge Wood was born in Lyme, Connecticut, October 7, 1832, and is the son of John Wood, also a native of that state, born August 17, 1786. The subject of this brief sketch was educated at Brown University, Rhode Island. In 1857 he graduated from the Albany Law School, and was that same year a member of the Connecticut legislature. In 1857 he came west and commenced the practice of law in Onarga. While a resident here he was elected, in 1860, prosecuting attorney of the twentieth judicial district, which embraced the counties of Iroquois, Kankakee and Livingston, holding the office until 1864. In 1865 he was elected by his district to the general assembly of the state. In March, 1867, he was appointed by the governor of the state to fill an unexpired term of circuit judge of the district in which he had formerly served as prosecuting attorney, and so well and acceptably did he discharge his duties that, upon the expiration of this partial term, he was elected for a term of six years. In all of the many and important trusts which Judge Wood has been called upon to execute he has had the satisfaction of the unanimous approval of his constituents and fellow-citizens. In 1874 he removed to Chicago, where he entered into partnership in the practice of law with Judge Loomis, of that city, and now ranks as one of the leading lawyers of Chicago. Perhaps there are few busier men than Judge Wood. His thorough preparation for his profession, and his quick appreciation of his special work, together with a sound judgment, enables him to arrive at

unerring conclusions with a rapidity surprising to many of the same profession.

William B. Crider, dealer in grain, lumber and coal, Del Rey, is a son of Samuel T. Crider, and was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, April 10, 1829. He lived with his parents, engaged in farming and going to school till the age of seventeen, when he began teaching music. When eighteen years of age he began to learn the trade of a carpenter under Ferdinand Woodard, at Williamsport, Indiana, having removed with his parents to that state in 1840. After learning the trade he followed the business about twelve years. October 22, 1856, he married Miss Rachel, daughter of Mr. Zebulon Foster, who was born in Warren county, Indiana, May 20, 1837. In the autumn of 1858 he came to Iroquois county, Illinois, where he bought and improved three farms, and finally settled permanently on Sec. 6, T. 25, R. 14, in Onarga township, and actively engaged in farming and stock-raising, and that business he successfully followed till the spring of 1878, when he rented his farm, removed to Del Rey, and engaged in the grain, lumber and coal trade. He now owns, besides his residence in town with four acres of land, a farm of 210 acres of land, on which is built the finest buildings in that part of the township, and all earned by his own hard labor, industry and close application to business, coming to this county with but \$25. He has six children, all living: Zebulon F., Mary I., Samuel P., Charlie P., Minnie B. and Dora E. He is a gentleman of strictly temperate habits.

John B. Lowe, publisher of the Onarga "Review," Onarga, was the youngest son of Samuel J. Lowe, third sheriff of Cook county, and was born in Chicago, October 10, 1843. He removed to St. Charles, Illinois, in 1853, and to Onarga in 1857. He became an apprentice to the printing business in 1858. He entered the army in 1862 as a private in Co. M, 9th Ill. Cav., and was captured by Hood's army near Florence, Alabama, November 19, 1864. He was mustered out at the close of the war without being exchanged. He engaged in printing in Onarga in 1866, and from 1867 to 1869 was in partnership with Ed. Rumley, and from 1879 to 1881 with F. R. Gilson. He removed the "Review" office to Moline, Illinois, in 1870; he reëstablished the paper in 1872, and is still publishing it. He was commissioned captain of Co. E, 9th battalion, I. N. G., September 12, 1877.

James B. Baldwin, druggist, Onarga, was the son of Gordon and Harriet (Fitch) Baldwin, and was born in Monroe county, New York, May 6, 1830. He attended the common schools and finished his studies in an academy in his native town of Riga. His father was a farmer, and he was reared to that occupation. In 1854 he went to Ulster





*Chas. H. Wood*

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county, New York, and was employed by his uncle in shipping stone. In 1857 he migrated to Illinois, and settled on the present site of La Hogue, in this county, on a farm of 160 acres. He was one of the first to locate in that section. At that time there was but one house between his residence and Onarga — Mr. Bennett's. In 1863 he moved to Onarga, and was employed two years by the railroad company. In 1866 he commenced selling drugs; three years later he took M. D. Firman into partnership, under the style of Baldwin & Firman. In 1876 the latter retired. Mr. Baldwin's drug store is one of the most complete and extensive in the county. He was married, May 5, 1855, to Miss Eliza J. Thompson. They have one son and one daughter. Mr. Baldwin has never interested himself in politics beyond a quiet and an intelligent discharge of the duties of citizenship, and he votes independent of party control.

H. F. Lockwood, farmer, Onarga, son of Walter and Dolly Lockwood, was born in Canada, August 14, 1824. The family first came to this county in 1857, having previously lived in the states of New York and Ohio, during a period of about twenty years. Mr. Lockwood married his first wife in Ohio, November 22, 1848. Her name was Emily Avery. She died March 23, 1863. They had seven children, three of whom are living: Eugene, Willie L. and Mary E. Mr. Lockwood afterward married Miss Mahala Evans, April 28, 1870. She is a native of Iroquois county. They had three children, only one of whom is living. Mr. Lockwood has a fine farm in Sec. 30, T. 26, R. 11 E. Early on the morning of May 6, 1868, during a severe thunder-storm, Mr. Lockwood's oldest son was instantly killed by lightning, a few rods south of the house. This was a severe affliction to the bereaved parents. Mr. Lockwood's aged parents still reside in Onarga. Mr. and Mrs. Lockwood are members of the Presbyterian church.

The founder of the Babcock family in the United States was James Badcock, who changed his name when he emigrated to the New World. He was born in Essex, England, about 1580. In the year 1620 he removed with his family to Leyden, Holland, to join the pilgrims who were about to sail for America. He embarked in the ship Anne early in 1623, and arrived at Plymouth, Massachusetts, in July. He lived a number of years, and died there. At the time of his arrival in this country he had four children: James, John, Job and Mary, all of whom were born in England between the years 1612 and 1620. He was married again in Plymouth about 1650, and had one son, named Joseph. James, Job and Mary remained at Plymouth. John moved to Rhode Island about 1648. Members of this family have been prominent in New England history. Henry Babcock was a colonel in the



king's service, and commanded a regiment of provincials in the French war, and was wounded at Ticonderoga. During the revolutionary war he was "General of the State Troops of Rhode Island," and distinguished himself on several occasions. Oliver Babcock was a captain. He was at the siege of Fort Washington, on the Hudson, and was so indignant at the surrender that he broke his sword across a cannon, declaring that it should never be yielded to the British. Horace Babcock, the subject of this sketch, second son of Charles and Martha (Gardner) Babcock, was born in Madison county, New York, September 13, 1821, at a place called Babcock's Mills. He was reared a farmer and brick-maker, and educated in the common schools. September 16, 1845, he was united in marriage by the Rev. M. Bixby with Miss Sarah Deshon. They have two living daughters: Martha and Hattie E.; the former is the wife of Lee C. Brown, of Onarga. Their son Charles died at this place, early in 1857. In the spring of this year Mr. Babcock removed from New York with his family, and settled in Onarga. He and his brother purchased Sec. 28, T. 26, R. 10 E, now known as the Knoche Farm. He was one of the founders of the Iroquois County Agricultural Society, and was among the earliest importers of Norman horses in this section. From 1860 to 1870 he was engaged in buying, shipping and butchering hogs and cattle. He owns 200 acres of land close to Onarga, valued at \$12,000.

Thomas Wand, merchant, Onarga, was born in Dollar, Perthshire, Scotland, on May 17, 1832. He was the son of Thomas and Jane (Malcolm) Wand. His parents moved to Glasgow when he was four years old, and he received his education in a seminary of that city, and also learned the tailor's trade. In 1854 he took passage from Liverpool for New Orleans, and coming north stopped eighteen months in St. Louis and worked at his trade. In the spring of 1856 he proceeded to Chicago where he remained a year. He passed the summer of 1857 in Kankakee, and in the fall settled permanently in Onarga. He began by working at his trade the first year, after which he opened a merchant tailoring establishment, but his business increased so that in the course of a year or two it had gradually embraced general merchandising. His success in responding to the demands of the trading public for the best goods at the lowest price, has steadily enlarged his circle of customers, and made his store inferior to no other in this part of the country. Mr. Wand was married to Mary Fickle, September 27, 1867. They have three children: Andrew, Mary and Thomas. Through Mr. Wand's exertions Onarga became an incorporated village. He has held the office of trustee. He is an Odd-Fellow and a member of the M. E. church.

Almon S. Palmer, attorney and real-estate agent, Onarga, was born in Columbus, Chenango county, New York, February 22, 1824. He was the son of Grant B. and Annis (Smith) Palmer. About 1856 he entered the law office of Henry Bennet, member of congress, and studied nearly three years. Three or four years before this he began operating in lands in the military tract of Illinois. In 1860 he removed to this state, and settled the first year in Onarga, then moved into Douglas township and went to farming. During his seven years' residence there he represented the town on the board of supervisors four or five terms. In 1868 he moved back into the village of Onarga and resumed the practice of the law. He was supervisor of this town many years, and chairman of the board several terms. In 1866 he was a member of the building committee who superintended the construction of the present court-house and jail at Watseka. In 1872 he was elected on the republican ticket to the state senate for four years. He was on the following committees: Judicial department and apportionment, chairman; expenses of general assembly, appropriations, county and township organization, miscellany, governor's message and revision of the statutes, until the appointment of the special committee. He was prominent in securing the passage of the present railroad law; he supported the temperance legislation; voted for the repeal of the lake front act, and against the resolution to revive the southern penitentiary. He was married to Laura L. Briggs, of Madison county, New York, August 11, 1844. Two daughters were the issue of this marriage. One died very young, and the other (Annis E.) is the relict of Walter S. Clark. His wife died March 11, 1877. He married again July 31, 1878, to Miss Emma E. Cushman. His grandfather (Elijah Palmer) was a revolutionary soldier, and a prisoner in the hands of the British six or eight months. His father was a member of the New York general assembly in 1859, and his brother (Smith M.) was in the Illinois house of representatives from Morgan county, about 1868.

It is a tradition in the Marston family that their ancestors landed on these shores from the Mayflower. The great-great-grandfather of the subject of this sketch kept public-house in Falmouth (now Portland), Maine, in the time of the revolution, and when that place was bombarded, his was the only house left standing. Mr. Marston's father was a mechanic of some note, who built the first Portland Exchange. Sanford K. was born in Augusta, Maine, February 24, 1831. His father's name was Ebenezer, and his mother's maiden name, Sarah S. Rideout. He was educated in the public schools of Mystic, Connecticut. He worked two years in a ship-smithy, and then served a regular apprenticeship at ship-building. He partially built several vessels at New

London and Bridgeport, Connecticut. After this he took charge of his father's business in New London—which was stone-cutting and marble-working. He was married, January 16, 1851, to Sarah M. Field. They have two living daughters: Mary A., wife of Robt. F. Cummings, of Clifton; and Harriet F., wife of Milton Doolittle, of Onarga. In the spring of 1856 he was the chairman of a committee of three who came west to find a location for a colony of about thirty-five Connecticut families. After making a selection he went back, and returned again in August and entered about 8,000 acres for the colonists. He then settled there and engaged in farming. He traveled two years for the land department of the Illinois Central railroad, collecting land payments in produce. In 1864 he moved to Onarga and opened a real-estate office. Afterward, in company with F. P. Beach, he embarked in the brick manufacture, and furnished the brick for the public school edifice, and for all the business houses in the village that are built of that material. In 1869 he joined William P. Pierson,—under the firm name of Marston & Pierson,—in the lumber, coal, implement and furniture trade. He was one of the commissioners to divide Ford county into precincts, and was elected supervisor of Brenton township. He was trustee of Onarga six years, and was either president or secretary of the board during the time. In the period of his service saloons were abolished, and none have since been allowed in the place. He has been a member of the M. E. church above thirty years. He is independent in politics.

John Campbell, butcher, Onarga, was born September 12, 1840, at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was the second son of James and Catherine (Campbell) Campbell. In 1841 his parents moved to Indianapolis, and in 1843 to La Fayette, Indiana. In 1861 he came to Illinois, and enlisted at Onarga, June 1, in Co. F, 25th Ill. Inf. He fought at Booneville, Pea Ridge, Corinth, Perryville, Stone River, Chickamauga and Mission Ridge; marched to Knoxville; served on the Atlanta campaign, and was engaged at Rocky Face Ridge, Big Shanty, Kennesaw and Peach Tree Creek. He was wounded in the right hip at Stone River. He was mustered out September 19, 1864. He returned to Onarga township and farmed till 1869, when he opened a grocery in the town in company with C. H. Baker—firm name, Campbell & Baker. After several changes, in 1878 he went into his present business of butchering. He was married December 24, 1868, to Marilla L. Baker. They have one daughter, Mary, born August 28, 1869. He has once been constable of Onarga township. He is an Odd-Fellow, and from 1853 to 1858 was a member of the M. E. church. Politically he is a very zealous republican.



Samuel E. Weeden, farmer and stock-raiser, Onarga, is a son of John Weeden, and was born June 28, 1832, in Jamestown, Rhode Island, on the same farm that his father, grandfather and great-grandfather were born, and in the same house, it having been built in 1687, and is now in good repair. His early youth was spent engaged in farming and attending school. At the age of twenty-two he was elected to the legislature of his native state, where he served two terms, having been twice elected to that position by his constituents. His grandfather served as captain in the regular army under Gen. Washington, during the revolutionary war. His uncle (John H. Weeden) was one of the most prominent lawyers in Rhode Island, and a member of the legislature of that state for many years, being a graduate of Brown University, of Providence, Rhode Island. In 1858 the subject of this sketch went to California, and remained there till he visited Idaho in 1861. From there he went to Nevada, and there took part in the change of that territory to a state. In December, 1865, he returned to his old home in Rhode Island, where he remained a few months and then came to Iroquois county, Illinois, and bought a farm in Onarga township, and engaged in farming and stock-raising. April 1, 1874, he married Miss Lucy, daughter of Mr. John Hughs, of Medina county, Ohio, and one of the early settlers of that part of the state. He now owns 240 acres of valuable land. He has two children: Amy C. and Mary H. He is one of the live, go-ahead, thrifty men who are needed to build up a new country, and whose influence is always felt.

Horace Barnes, farmer and stock-raiser, Onarga, is a native of Rutland, Vermont, and was born January 14, 1822, and there lived with his parents, engaged in farming, attending and teaching school till the age of twenty-four years. He then emigrated to Bloomingdale, Du Page county, Illinois, where he followed farming and teaching school. He also made the breeding and growing of Spanish merino sheep a specialty, taking many premiums on that stock at state fairs. While living in Du Page county he was elected county superintendent of schools, and also represented his township before the board of supervisors, and was for many years township school treasurer. In 1867 he came to this county, bought a farm of 210 acres, one and one-half miles east of Onarga, where he permanently located and engaged in farming and stock-raising. Since he has lived here he has been principal of the Onarga Graded School two years, and is now one of the trustees of Grand Prairie Seminary and Commercial College; also a member of the executive committee, and is now acting commissioner of highways. July 1, 1846, he married Miss Louisa Seeley, of Middlebury, Vermont; she died March 8, 1851. January 22, 1852, he married

his second wife, Miss T. Lorette Taylor, who is also a native of Vermont, and was born April 26, 1832. He has three children living, as follows: William S., by his first wife, who is now married and engaged in farming; Linnie L., wife of Elmer H. Wood, of Chicago, clerk in the office of the Union Pacific railroad department at a salary of \$1,200 per year; and Frank H., passenger ticket agent for the Chicago and Pacific railroad.

Daniel Martin, farmer and stock-raiser, Onarga, was born in the Highlands of Scotland, October 15, 1840. He attended school in the old Scottish Highlands, where he gained a perfect knowledge of the Gaelic language, which was (as he then thought) all he required. His father, being in this country during the revolutionary war, became pleased with the country, and determined in the future to make it his home, and in 1852 came to America and located in Guelph, Ontario, Canada. Soon after the subject of this sketch went to Buffalo and engaged in sailing on the lakes, which he followed till about 1860. He then came to Illinois and settled in La Salle county, where he bought a farm and engaged in farming. February 12, 1863, he married Miss Sarah Aikins, a native of England. In October, 1868, he came to Iroquois county, Illinois, where he permanently located on his present home farm, on Sec. 28, T. 26, R. 14, in Onarga township, and engaged in farming and stock-raising, and in that business he is now engaged. He owns 240 acres of land in Onarga township, all earned by his own industry, hard labor and careful management. He has eight children: Daniel, John, Jane, Anna M., Emma, Clara, Hattie and Cora.

Benjamin F. Duncan, farmer and stock-raiser, Onarga, is a son of Asa Duncan, and was born in Newell township, Vermilion county, Illinois, August 9, 1835, and there lived with his parents, engaged in farming and attending school till about twenty years of age. The love of adventure then led him west, where he visited Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado and Wyoming. He engaged in mining one summer at Pike's Peak, in 1859, and went back on the plains and engaged with Majors Russell and Waddell as assistant wagon-master, carrying government supplies to western forts in 1860, and in the spring of 1861, when the war of the rebellion broke out, he returned home and enlisted in Co. B, 25th Ill. Vol. Inf. At the battle of Chickamauga he received a severe wound in the arm, and was sent to hospital at Nashville, Tennessee, and was finally discharged with his regiment. During his service he was advanced to the office of third sergeant. On returning home he at once came to Iroquois county to look after the family of his brother, who was still in the service. January 25, 1866, he married

Miss Martha E. Drake, who was born April 26, 1848, in Vermilion county, Indiana, and is the eldest daughter of Jesse Drake, Esq., one of this county's early settlers. Mr. Duncan now has three children: Edward E., Jesse Elmer and George M., and is engaged in farming and stock raising in Onarga township.

F. P. Beach, brick and tile manufacturer, Del Rey, came to McLean county, Illinois, from Franklin county, Ohio, where he was born October 15, 1827. At the age of twenty-one he was married. His wife, Mrs. Nancy Beach, is also a native of Franklin county, Ohio, and was born November 6, 1828. Mr. Beach entered land in Yates township, McLean county, Illinois, in 1852, at the Danville land office; broke the first prairie and built the first house, and in fact made the best and first improvements in the township, and still owns the old farm. In 1865 he removed to Onarga, mainly for the purpose of educating his growing family. Soon after coming to this county he opened up the first brickyard in the western part of the county, and engaged in the manufacture of brick. He has furnished about all the brick used in the brick buildings of Gilman, Onarga and Buckley, and many of them he built by contract. In 1871 he built for himself the fine residence now owned by H. Babcock, in Onarga village. In 1877 he removed to Del Rey, and added to his brick business a tile factory, which was the first in the western part of the county that was in successful operation. He has also opened up a country store, where he trades goods for all kinds of country produce. He is one of the reliable, enterprising, go-ahead men, whose influence is felt wherever he is found. He has a family of six children, nearly all grown, as follows: Martha J., Libbie B., Carrie D., Levaun L. and Clifford Earl.

Edwin J. Barber, farmer, Onarga, son of Woodbridge and Sarah Barber, was born in Cornwall, Vermont, February 21, 1830. When he was six years of age his parents moved to western New York. His father was a farmer. His parents died at Yates, Orleans county. When twenty-four years of age Mr. Barber married his first wife and came to Chicago. He afterward returned to his father's home, where he remained until the opening of the war. He enlisted in 1862 in the 17th New York Battery. He served in the army of the Potomac and army of the James, and was in most of the hard battles in Virginia. He has served under Gens. Butler, Baldy Smith, Ord, and participated in all the battles under Gen. Grant while in command in Virginia. Mr. Barber was married to Arabella Stevenson, in Fairfax, Virginia, June 27, 1877. He has four children living. Their names are: Minerva S., born December 16, 1854; Mary F., born October 7, 1856; Jennie M., born May 7, 1859; Charlie K., born June 2, 1867.



The oldest son (James) died November 27, 1867. At the close of the war Mr. Barber removed to Iroquois county, Onarga township, and located on Sec. 12, T. 26, R. 10 E. He has served as deputy sheriff, and is a Mason.

George B. Winter, merchant, Onarga, was descended from French and English ancestry, and was born in Belchertown, Massachusetts, May 26, 1828. He was the tenth child of Alpheus and Prudence (Kenfield) Winter, who reared a family of eighteen children. He received his education at New Salem Academy, Massachusetts, and was bred to the pursuits of the farm. At the age of eighteen he went to the carriage-maker's trade. In 1854 he came west selling vehicles. In the fall he located at Princeton, Illinois, and after living there two years, farming and speculating, moved to Ford county and settled on a farm. During his residence there he represented the "pan-handle" on the board of supervisors. In 1866 he moved to Onarga and opened a boot and shoe, harness and saddle store. His house is now one of the largest and best of the kind in Iroquois county. He was united in marriage to Miss Kate M. Hawks, August 10, 1852. They have one son and one daughter. George B. Winter, Jr., has been in partnership with his father since he was eighteen years of age—style of firm, Winter & Son. Their daughter is married to George W. Stokes, a grocer and druggist of Belleflower, Illinois. In 1856 Mr. and Mrs. Winter joined the Congregational church, but when they came here they brought no letter, and have not since affiliated with any denomination; but they support the society where they live. The latter is a life member of the bible society, and the former is independent in politics.

William A. Boswell, farmer, Del Rey, is one of the enterprising farmers of this county. He was born in Mason county, West Virginia, July 29, 1830. About 1835 the family removed to Vermilion county, Indiana, and engaged in farming. When about fourteen years old, William, in company with his father, drove a number of cattle to Chicago, which they tried in vain to sell either in Chicago or Racine. They finally killed the cattle, and in the shape of mess beef were able to make a trade for goods, which were hauled back to Vermilion and finally disposed of—a transaction quite in contrast to the operations of the present time. Mr. Boswell married, October 14, 1852, Miss Elizabeth Micx, who was born in Virginia, December 24, 1835. She is a daughter of McKendree and Maria Micx, but early in life came to Tippecanoe county, Indiana. Here Mr. and Mrs. Boswell were married and lived until 1867, when they came to Iroquois county, and settled on the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 1, T. 25, R. 10 E. Mr. Micx and wife

had previously come to the county, and located on the same land where the family now lives. Of seven children, three are living: Eva, born September 15, 1853; Willie, March 14, 1856; George F., born April 28, 1866. Those not living were named: Charles P., Perry C., Annie P. and Tenna. Mr. Boswell has a very fine farm of 460 acres, upon which stands an imposing and beautiful residence.

William H. Ramsey, farmer and stock-raiser, Onarga, is a son of George Ramsey, and was born in Preble county, Ohio, October 11, 1842. His father being a farmer he was reared in that business, and attended school at the old home in Ohio. In 1867 he came to Iroquois county, Illinois, bought a farm on Sec. 22, T. 26, R. 14, in Onarga township, on which he permanently located and engaged in farming and stock-raising. Although he is not one of the early settlers he is one of the thrifty, energetic, go-ahead men. He has built up a very beautiful and substantial home on the prairie, having now one of the finest residences in this part of the township. December 31, 1868, he married Miss Emma, daughter of William Harper, who was born in Clinton county, Indiana, January 5, 1847. He has two children: Martha E. and Cosie. He is now turning his attention to hay and stock, as he thinks that a more intelligent branch of husbandry than raising corn for an already depreciated market. His farm comprises 160 acres of highly improved land, on which he is raising a fine lot of stock.

Hiram Salisbury, farmer and stock-raiser, Onarga, was born in the province of Quebec, Canada, December 18, 1827. When he was about four years old his parents moved to York state. His early youth was spent engaged in farming and attending school till about the age of seventeen years. He then learned the blacksmith trade and followed the same in York state till 1856. He then removed to Wisconsin, and there followed the business of his trade about ten years. Afterward he turned his attention to farming, but after two years farming in Wisconsin he concluded he would prefer the climate and advantages of fruit-raising in Illinois, and finally suited himself in Onarga township, Iroquois county, where he bought his present home, in Sec. 31 and 32, T. 26, R. 14, where he now lives, following the business of farming and stock-raising. This farm of 120 acres he bought in 1876, and it is a very desirable location, adjoining the Spring creek timber. February 2, 1854, he was married. His wife, Mrs. Lydia R. Salisbury, is a native of Rensselaer county, New York, and was born June 23, 1828. They have three children: Florence A., Philip E. and Joseph R. Politically Mr. Salisbury is a republican, and a member of the M. E. church, and is strictly a temperance man.

James W. Fryer, shoemaker, Onarga, was the oldest son of James W. and Sarah (Allen) Fryer, and was born in Gosport, Hampshire, England, August 1, 1840. He was educated in a grammar school in his native town. His father was a shoemaker, and he partly learned the same trade at home, and finished it under a German in London. At the age of twenty-four he began clerking in the post-office in Gosport, where he remained three or four years. In 1868 he emigrated to America, and located in Onarga, where he set up at once at his trade. October 25, 1876, he was joined in matrimony with Emma R. Skeels. They have one child, James W., born November 12, 1877. Mr. Fryer is a Royal Arch Mason and a republican.

David Dean, farmer and stock-raiser, Onarga, was born in Sullivan county, New York, June 11, 1829. He is one of a family of fourteen children,—all but one now living. Having to go two and a half miles to a school, kept on the old subscription principle, his opportunities for education were limited. He was brought up to the business of farming, and at the age of nineteen he began for himself by working out as a farm hand. April 20, 1851, he married Miss Hannah A. Davis, a native of New York. She was born June 7, 1825. He then engaged in farming by renting land, but later bought a farm and continued in that business till 1869. He then sold his farm and came to Iroquois county and bought a farm in Sec. 33, T. 26, R. 14, in Onarga township, on which he permanently located and engaged in farming and stock-raising, which business he now follows, making Norman horses a specialty. His farm of 120 acres is well improved and has been all earned by his own hard labor and industry. He has three children: Charles A. and Irvin M., both of whom are artists and engaged in the photograph business at Sycamore, Illinois; and Cora May, who is still at home.

Walter Brinkerhoff, farmer, Onarga, was the oldest son of Isaac and Jemima (Cromwell) Brinkerhoff. His paternal ancestors were among the earliest emigrants from Holland, who settled in New Amsterdam. Those on his mother's side came early from England, and are said to have been lineal descendants of the Protector. Mr. Brinkerhoff's birth occurred May 23, 1826, in Dutchess county, New York. He was reared a farmer, and sailor on the Hudson. He supplemented a common-school education with a year's tuition in the Theological Seminary at Newburgh. Up to 1851 he had been engaged in farming, river-sailing and civil engineering—in the latter capacity on the Hudson River railroad—but in this year he emigrated to La Salle county, this state, where he gave his whole attention to tilling the soil. In 1860 he removed to Galesburg and engaged in butchering. He



held the office of alderman of that city one term. In 1860 he went to Chicago and embarked in the ham, lard, and sausage trade, and was the first who successfully ran a steam meat-chopper. In 1864 he bought beef cattle for Camp Douglas, and the next year took charge of a government picket-boat used for transmitting orders and conveying troops, with headquarters at Cincinnati and Memphis. Late in the same year he returned to Chicago and engaged in the live-stock commission business about three years. In 1869 he came to Onarga township, where he bought a farm of 400 acres. On January 20, 1848, he was married to Adeline Washburn. They have one son, named Leslie, grown to manhood and married. Mr. Brinkerhoff and his wife are members of the Congregational church.

Ira Q. Sanborn, Onarga, belongs to a family whose continued and faithful military service in behalf of their country forms a highly honorable part of their history. His great grandfather Sanborn was a soldier in the seven-years war, and was at the taking of Quebec. His grandfather, James Sanborn, served during the revolution; he aided in the capture of Ticonderoga, retreated under Washington through New Jersey, fought at Trenton, wintered at Valley Forge, and was subsequently engaged in the battles of Monmouth, Eutaw Springs, Camden, and the siege of Yorktown. In the war of 1812 his father, Levi, bore a part in the engagement upon lake Champlain. Mr. Sanborn was born in Wyoming county, New York, December 16, 1837. His mother's maiden name was Hannah Fullerton. In 1845 his parents removed and settled in La Salle county, Illinois. He was brought up to the employments of the farm, and educated at Farm Ridge Seminary. On August 13, 1862, he was enrolled in Co. C, 7th Ill. Cav., Col. William Pitt Kellogg. This regiment was a part of the Army of the Tennessee, and during its whole term of service he was on duty, participating in the usually arduous expeditions and endless skirmishing incident to this branch. At Memphis he was severely wounded in his left shoulder. He was mustered out of service at Decatur, Alabama, July 27, 1865. He was married, November 23, 1865, to Miss Martha Abbott, of Utica, Illinois. In 1869 he settled in Iroquois county, where he bought a farm of 320 acres in Artesia township; in 1875 he sold it and moved to Onarga, and engaged in the grain trade. In the fall of 1879 he sold his warehouse to S. K. Marston. He was commissioned first lieutenant of Co. E, 9th battalion I. N. G., September 12, 1877.

James W. West, farmer and stock-raiser, Onarga, was born in Brown county, Ohio, on April 7, 1827. He was reared a farmer, but at the age of nineteen years went in a store belonging to his father as

clerk, where he remained till 1849, when he entered Franklin, graduating in the classical course in 1853. He then engaged in teaching at New Athens, Harrison county, Ohio, but at the end of one year decided to take a theological course at Lane Seminary, in Cincinnati, and there graduated in 1856. He then returned to Brown county, Ohio, and became pastor of the Free Presbyterian church at Strait Creek, where he remained ten years. He then removed to La Salle county, Illinois, where he remained five years as pastor of the Congregational church at Tonica. He then came to Iroquois county, bought a farm of 200 acres in Sec. 35, T. 26, R. 14, in Onarga township, permanently located and engaged in stock-raising and farming at his new prairie home. He is now pastor of the Second Onarga Congregational church and of Crescent Congregational church. October 23, 1856, he married Miss Pheba M. L. Williamson. She is a native of Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, and was born August 6, 1832. They have three children living: Lucy M., Henry M. and Anna W. His straightforward friendly way has made for him many warm friends.

Elias W. Swafford, farmer, Onarga, was born in Preble county, Ohio, April 5, 1835, and is a son of Nathan Swafford. He was engaged in farming, and attended school at home till about the age of twenty-one. He then went to Mercer county, Illinois, and after a short stay went to Iowa, where he remained four years engaged in farming. He came back to Illinois, and on September 27, 1860, married Miss Malinda A. Riner. She was born in Ohio on January 12, 1837. In the spring of 1861 he located near Yates City, Knox county, Illinois, and there engaged in farming, which he followed eight years. He then sold his farm and removed to Peoria, but only remained there one year, when he went to Stark county, Illinois, and bought a farm on which he lived two years. He then came to Iroquois county, Illinois, bought a farm in Sec. 27, T. 26, R. 14, in Onarga township, and on that farm permanently located and engaged in farming and stock-raising. His farm of 80 acres is well improved, and reflects credit on its owner. He has two children: Eva B. and Nathan P. Politically Mr. Swafford is entirely independent.

Ira F. Palmer, physician and surgeon, son of Gordon and Betsy (Kelley) Palmer, Onarga, was born in St. Lawrence county, New York, May 23, 1845. In 1852 his father emigrated to Illinois and settled at Newark, Kendall county. In addition to a common-school education he received one year's tuition at the Fowler Institute, Newark. He entered the army January 30, 1864, in Co. C, 147th Ill. Vol.; was on detached service in the field hospital of the seventeenth army corps

about one year. Afterward he was mail carrier three months. He was mustered out at Savannah, Georgia, January 22, and disbanded at Camp Butler, Springfield, Illinois, February 9, 1866. Beginning in 1866, he attended the University of Chicago two years; in 1869 he entered the Bennett Medical College and studied one year; in 1871 he went to the Eclectic Medical College of Cincinnati, and graduated in May, 1872. He located in Milwaukee for a few months, and then removed to Onarga, where he has gained a lucrative practice. He was married, November 27, 1872, to Emma A. Wood; they have one son, Paul J., born December 27, 1875. He is serving his third term as supervisor, and is chairman of the county board. His zeal for the principles of the republican party is unbounded.

George S. Ramsey, farmer and stock-raiser, Onarga, came to Iroquois county, Illinois, in 1874, from Preble county, Ohio, where he was born November 10, 1844. Up to the time he came to this county he lived at the old home in Ohio with his mother (his father having died when he was young). His business was looking after the interests of the farm, up to the time of his mother's death, which sad event in his life took place just previous to his removal to this county. Having bought land before coming, he began at once to improve his farm, and for the short time he has been on his new farm has gone far ahead of many who have been much longer in the county. His farm contains 160 acres in Sec. 22, T. 26, R. 14. He is turning his attention to hay and grass, as he considers it better for both his farm and pocket to raise stock than grain. January 25, 1877, he married Miss Keziah, daughter of John W. Grubbs, one of the early settlers of the township of Onarga. She was born in Ohio, May 10, 1851.

Edmund F. Burson, dentist, Onarga, was born in New Lisbon, Columbiana county, Ohio, February 15, 1838. In 1848 he removed with his parents, Nathan C. and Margaret (Lyon) Burson, to Kankakee county, Illinois. In 1850 he went to Will county, and attended the high school at Joliet, and in 1855 he began studying medicine at Mount Blanchard, Hancock county, Ohio. He took an office course and practice of three years, and in 1858 located at Minooka, Grundy county, Illinois. In 1859 he went to Colorado. He entered the army in 1862, and was in action at Perrysville, Stone River, Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, Rocky Face Ridge, Resaca, Kenesaw Mountain, Peach Tree Creek, Jonesboro and Lovejoy Station. He was mustered out in June, 1865, and immediately on his return he located in the practice of medicine at Frankfort, Will county, Illinois. In 1867 he took up dentistry and formed a partnership with Dr. E. H. Stewart, of Joliet. In 1876 he removed to Onarga, and has since practiced his profession



in that place. He was married, July 11, 1872, to Mary C. Starr, of Cedar county, Iowa. They have three children.

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## ASH GROVE TOWNSHIP.

The history of Ash Grove township, and more especially the sketch of its early settlers and settlements, is of interest no less important than that of those which have now, through the progress of events, assumed a greater importance. Its first settlers, and parties connected with its opening and in bringing about that grand condition of affairs which has raised it to a place exceeded in influence, condition and success by none other in the county, were men whose reputation was in no measure confined to a single state, and were of that stamp to whose touch every movement turned to a complete success. To Robert R. Roberts, one of the honored bishops of the Methodist church, belongs the honor of purchasing the first land in Ash Grove, while through his influence, and we may safely say through his charity, the first settlement was effected. The town originally comprised the territory within its present boundaries, all of Fountain Creek and the east two tiers of sections in Pigeon Grove. Its eastern, northern and western boundaries have always remained as the original plat, while its present southern boundary was fixed at the annual session of the board of supervisors, September 15, 1868, at which time Fountain Creek was taken off, leaving to the town all of the congressional town 25 north, range 13, and the two eastern tiers of sections in town 25 north, range 14, giving the town, on account of its long sections in the northern part, an area of about sixty square miles.

The soil is a dark, rich loam, and as deep as the average throughout southern Iroquois. Upon the whole, it is excellent for farming and grazing purposes, save some portions which are a little "swampy," which those who are unfortunate enough to possess have rendered famous during the past few wet seasons by their trying to purchase "web-footed seed corn," that might stand straight as the "house founded upon a rock," dare all storms, and bring forth an abundance. Yet at certain seasons of the year, it is said, these are the happiest spots in the town, for all summer long the merry grasshopper waltzes to the grand chorus of the cheerful frogs. But fortunately nearly all can be well drained, which is being done, both in the form of open and tile draining, having a splendid outlet in Mud creek, which runs through the town, cutting the west line

near the southern part, and running in an easterly direction, and passing into Milford on the east, about the center of section 25. This stream in all probability received its name, "Mud creek," from its miry banks. The southern portion of the town is also watered by Pigeon, Burson and Whisky creeks; the first receiving its name from the grove in which it rises, the second from a hospitable old gentleman by the name of Burson, who first settled upon its banks. The third was named by a man who probably would not now be taken as a model by the temperance portion of the town. Aretus P. Jinks had been to Milford and purchased a jug of whisky, thinking to have a fine time on the morrow, Sunday. He reached this stream, which was then without a bridge, but frozen over. Here he got off his horse, thinking to lead him across, fearing lest he should slip down on the ice. A few steps only had been taken toward the opposite shore when, as Jinks says, "he saw as many stars as there are in the milky way and heard a noise." As soon as he had finished calling upon higher authority and feeling his bruises, he saw his whisky running all over the ice, his jug in pieces at his side. This, he said, was too extravagant, so intending to save all he possibly could, laid upon his breast and drank what he could hold, and getting up, christened it with the name it has since retained. The northeastern corner of the town is watered by Rush creek, receiving its name, in all probability, from that venerable old settler, Samuel Rush, who first settled upon its banks, just across the line in Milford. Many different statements are made as to how the town received its name; some claiming that an Indian chief occupied the timber (lining Mud creek, varying from a quarter to a half mile in width, and extending entirely through the town) in an early day, by the name of Ash Grove, who gave the place his own name. Others claim it was on account of the abundance of ash in the timber; but this is certainly a mistake, as but very little of this kind of timber remains, while the early settlers testify almost to a person the scarcity of this wood. Mr. Harvey, a most trustworthy gentleman, to whom the writer is under obligations for numerous facts concerning early history, is authority for the statement that in the early history of eastern Illinois, when many were settling farther west on the banks of the "Father of Waters," a large ash tree had been blown down by the place where all emigrants always stopped over night in the timber on the bank of the creek. This tree lay here for many years, until the fires which had been built against it had burned it in two, when it became known as Ash grove, a name given it by persons who had stopped on one of its beautiful spots, in

writing to friends who were going west, mentioning Ash grove as a point by which to come. This we think the most credible story.

#### EARLY SETTLEMENTS.

As we have incidentally mentioned before, Bishop Roberts is entitled to whatever of honor there is attached in being the first purchaser of Ash Grove land. This was in 1833, and the land was a large tract on both sides of the creek, and mostly in the timber. It appears that the bishop, who owned a large farm of 900 acres in Lawrence county, Indiana, became interested in the condition of a number of his relatives in whom the organ of acquisitiveness seemed to be sadly deficient. This fact started many plans in his practical mind as to how to better their condition, the plan finally settled upon being to start a colony of the bishop's relatives in eastern Illinois. Accordingly Mr. Roberts was constantly on the look-out for a good country in which to give them all a good home, and while on his way from Lawrence county, Indiana, on horse-back, to the Rock River conference, the charitable bishop, traveling along the old Lafayette and Ottawa road, settled upon this spot as capable of being developed into a valuable country. Hence the purchase, and the arrival of his brother and his nephew, by marriage, in the spring of 1834, Lewis Roberts and John Nunamaker, his son-in-law. These two gentlemen were the first pioneers of the township, settling on Sec. 28, T. 25 N., R. 13, where immediately after their arrival they built a rough log cabin, 18×20, being the first dwelling erected in the town, and on the land given to Lewis by the bishop. This was situated just southeast of where Mr. Keath now lives on the place known as the Wilson farm, and northeast between eight and ten rods of Mr. Keath's barn, on the bank of the creek and in the edge of the timber. These two sturdy pioneers came from Lawrence county, Indiana, and lived in the house mentioned. After arranging things around their new home, Mr. Nunamaker moved his family into Mr. Roberts' house, while he boarded with them about a year before bringing his own family hither. They arrived in Ash Grove April 3, 1835, bringing with them a young man by the name of John Willoughby, who, when a little boy, was bound out to Bishop Roberts by the overseer of the poor for Lawrence county, Indiana. After assisting in putting in the crop that season, young Willoughby returned to Indiana, and came again in 1838, at which time he settled permanently. Mr. Lewis Roberts, who may be said to be the first actual settler, was a man of extraordinary ability, which Mr. Harvey thinks was not inferior to that of



his distinguished brother, but unlike his brother was nothing of an orator, cared little for a sermon or anything of an intellectual character, save political discussion, of which he was passionately fond, and which at different times made him a representative in the general assembly of Indiana and also of Illinois, in 1838. Upon his return from the legislature Mr. Roberts was full of Lincoln's stories, and lost no time in extolling his virtues and his abilities. Mr. Roberts, being a man who was also a great story-teller and a most excellent conversationalist, was capable of appreciating Mr. Lincoln's ability as a politician and genial associate. The following anecdote he was always pleased to relate whenever he had an audience: After a tedious morning session of the legislature spent in the discussion of some political measure they adjourned for dinner, Lincoln dining with his friend Roberts. No sooner had they seated themselves at the table than the discussion was resumed, in which the honorable member from Iroquois so far forgot himself as to reach and help himself to meat three or four times in succession. Upon noticing this Mr. Lincoln reached and took a piece from Mr. Roberts' plate. This attracted his attention and he immediately demanded an explanation, asking if he intended to insult him. Lincoln immediately and very courteously begged pardon, saying, "Excuse me; I took yours for the meat plate." Great laughter ensued at Mr. Roberts' expense, who soon saw what was the matter. He took a final leave of Lincoln, whom he was used to call his "large-hearted friend," at the adjournment of the session, never dreaming that he would ever be the martyred president of this mighty nation. Mr. Roberts never lived to see the fruition of his noble plans in regard to the development of a town of which he was the father. He passed peacefully away February 2, 1848, leaving one son, Lewis, who is a Methodist minister, now located at Peru, Indiana.

The first wedding in the township was at Mr. Roberts' house, being the marriage of his daughter Sarah to Henry Skeels, who was then living near Spring Creek, and near the farm now owned by Mrs. Pierce. This occurred April 18, 1838. The ceremony was performed by Ira Lindsey, who it is said was much more "scared" than either the bride or the groom, causing a good deal of merriment among those who were present at the pioneer wedding, much to the chagrin of the officiating gentleman. They were married, owing to the smallness of the house, under a few trees just in front of the entrance, after which all sat down to a most remarkable dinner, both in its quality and historical interest. No wedding before or since in Iroquois county called together all the citizens of so large a

body of contiguous territory, comprising all the citizens in Ash Grove, some from Milford and from Spring Creek, about fifty in all. The following families were represented from Ash Grove: John Martin's, James Chess', John Nunamaker's, Thomas Hockins', John Henry's and his son Alexander's, Lewis Brock's, Allen Brock's, Hiram Sturdevant's and Wesley Jenkin's; Spring Creek was represented by Ira Lindsey's family, Mr. Kirk's, Mr. Lehigh's, and Mr. James Smith's, the deputy county surveyor; and Milford by John Strean and his son David.

Mr. John Nunamaker, who had lived with Mr. Roberts, moved in the fall of 1835 to a farm given him by the bishop, on Sec. 19, upon which he had built a house, which stood near where the farmhouse of Mr. Harvey now stands. In this house Joseph Nunamaker was born, he being the first white person born in the town; he is now living in Iowa. A few years after the settlement here Mr. Nunamaker and his boys, of whom he had quite a number, engaged themselves in the manufactory of crocks, jugs, churns and dishes of clay. The building in which these things were manufactured and burned was about one rod southeast of the place now occupied by Mr. Harvey's farm-house. Their first kiln was burned in 1838. This was carried on with apparent success for four or five years, when Mr. Nunamaker, thinking sawing and grinding was a more profitable business, commenced operating a mill situated on S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 19. The house of Mrs. Hamilton now stands on a portion of the ground occupied by the mill. It was run by a six horse power, but when horses were scarce oxen were forced into the work, and with the addition of a good deal of noise with about as good success. The farm, after many years, was sold to Luther Clark, and from him it passed into the hands of Wesley Harvey, its present owner, who says it is almost an impossibility to dig a post hole near the house on account of the broken pieces of crockery.

This settlement was followed by that of John Hunnel, who came, in the fall of 1834, a short time after the arrival of Mr. Roberts and Nunamaker. He improved the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 29, T. 25, R. 13, the place now owned by Peter Hickman. Mr. Hunnel had three sons: William, Jacob and David. The former improved the farm now occupied by William Young. The house is still standing, being the north part of the present dwelling, since weather-boarded and painted. In the fall of 1836 came John Henry, from Lawrence county, Indiana, a man possessed of a fine person and a clear brain. Instead of building castles in the air he looked at the stern realities of life, studied the present instead of dreaming

of the future or wandering in the past, and consequently was a sturdy, practical man, prepared for any emergency. He settled on 80 acres one and a half miles northwest of what is now the village of Glenwood, purchasing of the government at \$1.25 per acre. In the fall of 1837 Mr. Henry erected a saw-mill twenty feet square upon his place, which was also used for grinding corn. This was the first mill in the town, and was situated about a hundred yards southeast of where the house stood; but in about two years it was moved about two and a half miles northwest of Loda. The farm is now occupied by Samuel Ladd, but owned by Mr. Blessing, of Indiana. The house built by Mr. Henry was moved some years ago on Sec. 16, T. 25, R. 13, by James Belt and Hamilton Spain.

James Chess, a brother-in-law of the bishop, came next, settling south of Lewis Roberts' place, across the creek, on forty acres given to Mrs. Chess by her brother. The farm is now owned by Charles Hickman, who is still using the cabin built by Mr. Chess as a kitchen attached to his house. Mr. Chess had one son, Robert, who fell heir to the property, and lived on it until his death, in 1871.

Lewis Brock and his son Allen joined the settlement in the summer of 1837, accompanied by Wesley Harvey, a young man of nineteen years. Mr. Allen Brock immediately commenced building, and in less than ten days, by the energy and activity of these three early heroes, the two families were keeping house in a cabin 18×20 on Sec. 14, T. 25, R. 14. Mr. Lewis Brock settled on the farm now owned by Mr. Isaac Whitted, building his house north of the place now occupied by his barn in the spring of 1838, and which is still standing, in a tolerably good state of preservation.

John Cady came from Lawrence county, Indiana, with a yoke of oxen and a team of horses hitched to the same wagon, about two weeks after the arrival of the Brocks, in 1837, and settled on the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 14, T. 25, R. 14, without either purchasing it or entering it according to law, thinking to farm forever off the government. This he improved with one of the best houses in the neighborhood, a good orchard and considerable breaking. Here he lived a number of years. His orchard was bearing nicely and the farm yielding, by the sweat of an earnest brow, an abundance. But when the Illinois Central railroad was granted every alternate section, it included Mr. Cady's. Then came a great trial in his eventful life, for, without enough money to purchase the place, he was forced to sell his improvements at a great sacrifice to I. W. Tibbits, who, in about a year, sold to Mr. Trosper. Mr. Cady then moved just southeast, on the corner of section 13, so he would not be out of sight of what he once



deemed a fine little home. On the place last settled he built a house, which stands to-day as the old gentleman left it, without a tree near it, and nothing but a few rods of fence, which reminded the writer, as he passed it, of a disappointed and heart-broken life. Mr. Cady was a man of innumerable good qualities, but of rather an impractical turn of mind.

John Martin and Thomas Hockins, sons-in-law of Lewis Roberts, came together in the fall of 1837. The former settled on the farm now owned by the present road commissioner, James Davis, on section 28, building a log cabin  $16 \times 18$ , in which he lived until his sale to Mr. Davis in 1853. The old house is still held and looked upon by the family as a sacred relic of early struggles. It is used at present as a tool-house. Mr. Hockins settled on the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 19, building a dwelling  $16 \times 18$ , at which place meetings were held many years prior to the building of the old log school-house, to which they were afterward moved. The house is still in existence, having been moved to the place now owned by Amos Bishop, and used as a place in which to keep all kinds of farming implements.

The next person to make a settlement was Nathaniel Jenkins, coming in the spring of 1839 and settling on what is now known as the Watkins farm. Here, in 1840, he erected a saw-mill  $24 \times 40$ , which, after running about five years, during which time he sawed timber for every family in the Grove, he sold to Aretus P. Jinks, who operated it until it was completely worn out. The mill was situated near the place where Mr. Watkins' house now stands. Mr. Jenkins then moved to section 19, where he built the second frame house erected in Ash Grove, the first being built by S. W. Jenkins, the pioneer carpenter of Ash Grove. The old house is still standing, and owned by his son. Mr. Jenkins was a splendid christian, an example worthy of the following of any man. He was thoroughly known as the pioneer local preacher, and through his zealous labors in favor of the denomination of his choice, in doing genuine good and assisting largely in church duties, the Methodists owe a large portion of their success.

The fall of 1838 fixes the date of the arrival of two stalwart religious characters, Hiram Sturdevant and Samuel W. Jenkins, the former settling northeast of what was then Round Grove, but better known now as Roses Grove, in whose family the first death occurred in Ash Grove, being one of his little girls. She was buried on the bank of the creek, where, since, a few others have been laid. The latter settled still farther northeast of the Grove, and followed farming with splendid success for a number of years. This same fall came

one of the pioneer carpenters, in the person of John Vaughn, settling in the forks of Mud and Pigeon creeks, north of where Mr. Jenkins had his saw-mill, on the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sec. 29. Then came Joseph Hockins, who settled on the place now owned by Royal Smith, of Milford. The house is still standing, but not in its original position, and is used as an out-house for various purposes. Amos Jenkins, Perkins Farnum (who made the first brick in the township), Abel Sturdevant and Samuel Sturdevant, the pioneer blacksmith, came in 1840. James Spain came in 1841.

The year 1842 is remarkable to the younger inhabitants on account of a very interesting affair occurring in which the then boys of the town took an active part. It was in June that Mr. Harvey, with an ox-team and thirteen bushels of wheat, Mr. Willoughby with thirty bushels of corn, and Lewis Brock, Jr., with a few hundred pounds of bacon and two yoke of oxen, started for Chicago to market. This trip occupied about ten days. Upon their arrival in the then small city their produce was disposed of at the following prices: wheat 85c per bushel, corn 30c, bacon \$2.50 per hundred. The boys then, after a settlement, and some shopping, started to leave the city on their way home. They camped for the night near where the Illinois Central depot now is. It was about dusk and fully dark when the boys had their teams unyoked. The day had been a very calm one, but in the evening the wind arose and drove quite a good sized dark object near the shore of the lake, and together with the white waves which came dashing in had a hideous appearance in the dim starlight. The boys knew nothing of the action of the lake and were inclined to think a ghost was about to attend to their case, but Willoughby suggested the boys be brave, march up to the object and capture it. This was agreed upon and all charged together, but no sooner were they near the water's edge than the wind rolled up a large wave on the beach, and not knowing but that this was their destroyer, from the rushing noise it made, their courage failed them and in single file, double quick, Willoughby ahead, screaming at the top of his shrill voice "Boys, it's a shark! it's a shark!" the boys made a hasty retreat to their wagons, while poor Brock's heart was fluttering so badly he could scarcely speak. Being unable to keep up, he was left in the rear, and of course thought he would be the first one taken in by the mad, excited shark. This was repeated several times, but to no avail, for each time they neared the shore they thought the unruly monster made a lunge for a boy. During the latter trials a pine stick was lighted and used as a torch, but it was blown so by the wind it revealed nothing. Frightened, discouraged

and whipped, the boys all retired for the night in one wagon, fearing to sleep alone as they had done heretofore. Imagine their surprise the next morning when a large pork barrel was lying upon the sand near the wagons. This Mr. Brock put in his wagon and hauled home so the citizens of Ash Grove might have an opportunity of viewing John's lake Michigan shark.

About this time occurred an item of interest in the town's history in the form of a little fun. It was customary in those early days for quite a number of the settlement to congregate on Sundays at some of the neighbors' houses, and among other things discuss religious topics, so on the day to which the writer wishes to call attention they met at John Willoughby's, and among them chanced to be Aretus P. Jinks, a Universalist, at whom every one in turn aimed his strongest point in opposition to his theory while he fought the crowd, giving them as he thought, as good as they gave. Every one was excited about the discussion and each side thought a complete victory won. They adjourned in the evening, the best of feeling pervading the entire company. On the following Thursday Jinks, the Universalist, Gabriel Keath and another party, both of whom were Methodists, and participants in the argument the Sunday previous, started for Woodland. They had got out on the prairie some distance when an awful hail-storm came up, the hail being as large as walnuts and coming in such terrible force as to make the horses ungovernable, while to unhitch was impossible. They started to run, being pelted by the hail at every jump, when to save their wagons from being broken to pieces the horses were kept running in a circle. The storm continued with increasing fury, when Jinks, fearing lest they should be killed, and thinking his soul unprepared, shouted with all the earnestness he possessed: "Pray Gabe! pray! pray!" This was too good a joke on the Universalist, who had heretofore sneered at the idea of prayer, to go untold, so everywhere he went the story was told, much to his discomfort and disgust, while the laugh went around at his expense; but it cured him, for he never mentioned universal salvation again.

Alonzo Taylor came in 1848, and was known as a thorough religious character and the first settlement doctor practicing the Thompsonian system. James Coalman came next, in 1849, and was the first minister to settle permanently in the town. He is now living near Onarga, practicing that same christian forbearance that characterized his workings during his stay in Ash Grove. In the building of Wesley he was the leading character, being one of four men to haul the lumber from Boone county, Indiana, a distance of one hundred miles. Amos and Henry Bishop also came about this time.



Z. F. Jenkins was the first man to build a house entirely away from the timber, being north of the grove, on Sec. 13, T. 25, R. 14, in 1853. This date marks the advent of the railroad, when it was suddenly discovered that the vast prairies were destined for other purposes than public pastures, and they began to be occupied rapidly. John Montgomery, Samuel Clark and son (John A.), David Swank, David Dixon, John Jones, T. J. Mets and Wm. and David Hunnel were some of the earliest who dared to brave the wolves, rattlesnakes and green-head flies that swarmed in the tall grass of the open prairie. From this time forth, through the inducements offered by the Illinois Central railroad, so many new settlers appeared that it is impossible, in our limited space, to chronicle them.

In 1861 came Solomon Dillon, one of the pillars and pioneers of the Friends' church. Samuel Speer was the second, settling on what is now known as the Mendenhall property. Then came many others in rapid succession until the Quakers had the largest congregation in the town.

#### FIRST ELECTIONS.

The earliest settlers were compelled to go to the farm then owned by a Mr. Joseph Ross, about two miles southwest of the village of Milford, in what was then known as the Burlington precinct, to vote,

the election being held in that gentleman's house. This continued for some time, when, in 1840, a precinct was opened at John Martin's house (the building now used as a tool-house by Mr. Davis). At this election, being the first general one ever held in the town, the following persons announced, in sonorous tones, Gen. Harrison to be their choice for president, who received every vote: Hon. Lewis Roberts, John Nunamaker, Wesley Harvey, John Willoughby, John Martin, Robert Roberts, John Hunnel, Thomas Hockins, John Henry, Alexander Henry, Lewis Brock, Allen Brock, Na-



GEN. HARRISON.

thaniel Jenkins, Samuel Jenkins and Hiram Sturdevant. Of this solid band of whigs but two remain, Mr. Harvey and Mr. Willoughby.

The first election under the township organization was held Tuesday, April 1, 1856, at the school-house near the place then owned by James Wilson; John H. Stidham, a justice of the peace, acting as judge, while Daniel South and Robert R. Chess were appointed and duly sworn as clerks. It is a fact worthy of note that from its very birth Ash Grove has in political principles been whig and republican. From the first settlement by Hon. Lewis Roberts all were radical whigs of the most pronounced type, and for many years all were staunch members of that organization, and from that day to this have never failed to cast a large majority of votes for the whig and then the republican candidate running for a national office. At the first township election in 1856 John Wilson was chosen supervisor, Daniel South, clerk, Joseph Ross, assessor, Luther T. Clark, collector, and James Davis, Jacob Hunnel and Monroe Gilbert highway commissioners. The present officers are: James Crangle, supervisor; John Swank, clerk; August Lucke, assessor; Silas Brock, collector, and E. Stimpson, James Davis and Elbert G. Hickman, commissioners of highways. Lewis Roberts, Sr., was the first justice of the peace in the town, and as such was very peculiar and eccentric. It was an old saying of his that as long as he was justice of the peace that portion of Iroquois county should never be disgraced with a lawsuit; so, true to his word, as soon as any person would come to him entertaining the idea of commencing suit, the argument would begin, not, as in these days, after the testimony was in, but immediately, Roberts trying to effect a compromise. Sometimes two whole days would be occupied in obtaining a settlement. But it is said he never failed in making both parties satisfied; for at the expiration of his term there had not been a single suit in the town. In marrying parties he always collected the legal fee, but directly handed it over to the bride, be it a large or a small amount, as a wedding present. Mr. Harvey's first wife was the recipient of the fee, as was Rachel Brock, when she married Orvis Skeels, it being the second wedding in the township.

#### ROADS.

The pioneer highway of the township was known as the Lafayette and Ottawa road, which came into the town at the northeast corner of Sec. 24, T. 25, R. 13, running diagonally across it, reaching section 26 at its northeast corner. Here it ran along the edge of the timber, through sections 27, 28, 29, just north of Glenwood, through 19, continuing in a northwesterly direction through Secs. 24, 13 and 14, T. 25, R. 14 W.; thence into Artesia. To-day Ash Grove,

through the enterprise and industry of her citizens, has the honor of carrying the banner as being the best graded township in the state of Illinois outside of a corporation, and well does she sustain the glory. The graded roads, of which seventy-five miles are completed, are sixteen feet wide, with an average height of eighteen inches clear across, averaging something over two feet high in the center, and rounding toward the edges of either side. In the lower places the grades are sometimes raised by the use of machines to the height of four feet, making a road which soon dries after our heavy spring rains, and always passable in the muddiest seasons, while heretofore it was impossible to travel. Besides making an excellent road the ditches made on both sides are of inestimable value, both in draining the road and the farms by their side. The honor of introducing the graders into this town belongs in a large measure, by general agreement, to Samuel Washburne, being the first to advocate the buying of these machines. Having failed to convince any one of the commissioners of its advantages, he bought one himself, and during the fall of 1875 graded some four miles, for the purpose of educating the citizens, and especially the commissioners, that they were not a luxury, but a real necessity. This was not accomplished to the extent of influencing the commissioners to purchase a grader until the expiration of Mr. Washburne's term. In July, 1877, Edward Stimpson, Charles Hickman and George Sinderson, as commissioners, purchased their first grader at a cost of \$675, and in that year graded twenty miles of road, at an average cost to the township of \$68 per mile. This so far proved its worth above the expectations of the most sanguine supporters of this system of working that a second was purchased in June, 1878. This year thirty miles were graded, at an average cost to the town of \$63 per mile, and in 1879 twenty-five miles were finished, at an average cost per mile to Ash Grove of only \$57.50. In 1877 and 1878 a premium was offered by the state board of agriculture of \$100 each year to the township grading the largest number of miles at the lowest average cost to the town. This, after a careful examination of all the reports made throughout the state, fell to Ash Grove. In 1879, with the average cost per mile still lower, and thinking the premium offered belongs to them, it has again entered the contest; but as yet no report has been received. These facts, we think, fully substantiate our assertion.



## EDUCATIONAL.

The pioneer school-house was raised March 4, 1841, about a quarter of a mile northwest of the village of Glenwood, on a portion of the lot on which Amos Bishop's house now stands, being a log building about  $18 \times 26$  feet, and was built by each one in the community (of which this was thought to be about the center) contributing so many hewed logs and clapboards, and so many days' work. This was run after it was finished upon a private plan, each one paying the teacher, Lewis Roberts, Jr. (now a Methodist minister, located at Peru, Indiana, and a son of Hon. Lewis Roberts, and teacher of the first term), in proportion to the number of scholars coming from the family, which was \$1.50. The following children were registered as attendants at the three months' summer session in 1841: Anna Hunnel; Matilda, Margaret J., Joseph and Michael Nunamaker; Lewis Hockins, and Caroline his sister; Mary and Marquis Brock; Mary, Nancy, Sarah, Cynthia and John T. Cady. The second term was taught by Robert Chess in the fall. The same scholars attended as above with the addition of Stephen and Wesley Sturdevant. At this house Silas Brock, the present town collector, Joel Belt, Z. F. Jenkins, Charles Brock, and M. L. Brock, who is now a professor in the Jacksonville Deaf and Dumb Asylum, attended their first term and commenced their education. Here the first singing-school was also held by John Martin, between 1848 and 1850, in which nearly every person in the neighborhood participated. The second school-house was erected on the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 28, T. 25, R. 13 W. in the spring of 1853, Miss Dixon being the first teacher. The third in the township and the first in T. 25, R. 14 W. was taught in Mr. Harvey's kitchen by Miss Nancy Tibbits. A building was soon finished, however, by Z. F. Jenkins, and was known as the Belt School-house, situated about a quarter of a mile north of the center of the south line of Sec. 14, in which school was held. It has since been moved on Sec. 23, E.  $\frac{1}{2}$ , where it is used by the United Brethren minister as a stable.

Elihu K. Farmer was, as far as we can ascertain, the first practicing physician that visited Ash Grove. This was in 1839. In 1840 Nathan Wilson, who was then located at Milford, practiced to some extent through the settlement. But the honor of being the first practicing physician to locate permanently here belongs to William F. Horner, M.D., a very excellent gentleman, who is now practicing at Buckley, Illinois. Dr. Horner came in the fall of 1856, when a single man, and boarded with John H. Stidham, continuing his practice here nearly fifteen years.

John Nunamaker was the first postmaster in the township, receiving his commission in the spring of 1849. The office was in his dwelling-house, while the mail was carried from Milford on horseback, by I. W. Tibbits, once a week, for \$24 a year. John B. Clark was the second, but did not receive his commission for nearly three years after the leaving of Mr. Nunamaker, the mail being carried out from Onarga by the boys of the settlement in turn.

The principal "silent city" of the town is about a quarter of a mile south of Peter Hickman's house, on the shady and grassy bank of the creek, containing about three acres. Here, in 1839, was buried Daniel Ferris, being one of the first deaths occurring in the town. He was soon followed by Sarah Reed, John Shryer, Thomas Hockins, and Hon. Lewis Roberts. Like nearly all early settlers in a new country, a good many buried their dead on or near their own farms. The Chess graveyard marks the spot where the relatives of that pioneer family lay, receiving its name from James Chess, who was first to be laid here in 1837. There are now about a dozen. It is on the farm formerly owned by Mr. Chess, but now owned by Charles Hickman. The Friends' cemetery is a neat little resting-place for the dead, situated as it is on a beautiful knoll a short distance northeast of their church, and on the bank of the creek. The first party buried here was a Mrs. Morris, in the fall of 1864. Joshua Endle soon followed; then came Thomas Hayworth, Thomas Anderson, Solomon Dillon and others, until now the bodies of near a hundred honored friends lie mouldering here. The Lutherans also have a suitable burying-ground just south of their church, in which are buried a number of the members.

According to an act of the legislature of March 7, 1869, permitting certain townships lying within certain limits to appropriate money to aid in the construction of the Chicago, Danville, & Vincennes railroad, an appropriation was voted August 12, 1868, donating \$3,000 to the above road. The bonds were issued July 1, 1871, and were due July 1, 1876, and payable at the American National Exchange Bank, in New York. A vote was carried to renew them in the fall of 1876, and new bonds were issued. By an agreement, when Fountain Creek was taken off Ash Grove received three-fifths of all town property, assuming three-fifths of all indebtedness, making the principal of her bonds \$1,892. In the fall of 1877, there was extended on the tax books a sufficient amount to pay the bonds, and about two-thirds of this was collected when, May 8, 1878, the treasurer was enjoined from paying over any money belonging to said town to any holders of the bonds. In September,

1879, a compromise was effected by paying the holders of the bonds 50 per cent of the indebtedness, thus relieving the town of railroad debt.

#### CHURCHES.

In the history of a township the religious sentiment of its settlers is one of the best criterions of its true worth, for without a wholesome christian feeling pervading all interests, we are but a few paces ahead of barbarism. In this direction the town can claim a place in the front ranks of the county's history. As in most new countries the Methodists were the first and for many years the only denomination holding meetings in the town. In its infancy Ash Grove was a part of the district running from the south line of the county to the Kankakee river. The pioneer minister was a gentleman by the name of Springer, who preached at the house of Hon. Lewis Roberts, in the summer of 1834, where a congregation of about twenty persons greeted him once every four weeks. He was followed by Joseph Rymond, and he in turn by John Parsons. During the time Mr. Burr was on this charge, the meetings were removed to the house of Thomas Hockins, a place nearer the center of the neighborhood, in which place they were held until the spring of 1841, when they were moved to the school-house just completed on section 19. At this place Nathaniel Jenkins, a local minister of more than average ability, preached the first sermon to a congregation of about twenty persons. The school-house was used until the building of Wesley and Flowers chapels, in the spring of 1855. These are credited as being the first frame churches erected in the county. The cause of building these two places of worship was not on account of any "split" among the members, but on account of the creek. Those on the south side claimed they could not attend church all the time on account of the distance and high water, while those on the north side, through priority of settlement, claimed the right to build north of the stream. Accordingly in the spring of 1855 each faction commenced a church. That on the south side, under the name of Wesley chapel, was first to be commenced, but the one on the north side the first to be completed; this was built on the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 24, T. 25, R. 14, on an acre of land donated by Alonzo Taylor; the building was 24x44, and cost near \$1,000, and named Flowers chapel, in honor of J. W. Flowers, who preached the dedication sermon February 2, 1856, at which time the church was entirely paid for. At the dedication nearly all the citizens of Ash Grove were present, and many from Milford and Onarga. The first quarterly meeting was held here



before it was finished, July 22, 1855, Elder Walker officiating. The first presiding elder visiting Ash Grove was Hooper Crews, a most extraordinary man, well fitted to inspire hope among the pioneer Methodists. Under Rymond there were but eight active members of the M. E. church in the town, but under the earnest toil of the sturdy christian men who guided the organization, a continually increasing interest was developed, until in the summer of 1868, when the building was moved to Glenwood (where it is still used), there was a membership of sixty-five. W. H. M. Brown is the present pastor. In this township Bishop Roberts preached three times while on visits to his relatives. The first of these eloquent sermons, which drew everybody from far and near, was delivered in his brother Lewis' house on the Keath farm, in April, 1838. His second was preached at the head of the grove, in the house of Lewis Brock, being the next Sunday, at which time he preached from the text in the ninth chapter of Jeremiah, a part of the twenty-third and twenty-fourth verses: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might; let not the rich man glory in his riches, but let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the Lord which exercise lovingkindness, judgment and righteousness in the earth." His last was in 1845, being delivered in the grove about one hundred yards southeast of Thomas Hockins' house. About two hundred persons were present, while eight joined the church, and as many were baptized.

The Society of Friends at one time had the largest membership of any denomination in the town, numbering about 300 members in 1869; but owing to so many removals there remain but eight or nine families. In the fall of 1864 the society built a church in the southern part of the town, 24×24, but in less than one year the membership grew so rapidly and became so large as to demand a larger building; hence, in the fall of 1865, an addition was built, making the structure 24×60, costing near \$1,100, which still stands on the original spot. The first monthly meeting of the Friends was held in the church before it was completed, October 21, 1865, at which meeting Henry W. White was appointed its first clerk, and at the next meeting for the transaction of business, Enoch Lindley was appointed the first treasurer. The following persons were then appointed overseers, whose duty it was to look after the business of the church generally, and to report any members who had willfully violated any of the rules of the organization: John Haworth, Jehu Ballard, William Hormada and Joseph Mote. The committee on

education was composed of W. O. Mendenhall, Samuel Spear, Henry W. White, J. T. Cox, Rebecca Newlin, Anna J. Dixon, Mary A. Mendenhall and Caroline Hormada. A committee was also appointed to procure and distribute tracts upon various religious subjects. The society, at the close of the war, appointed a committee to solicit subscriptions from the members of the church to assist the freedmen, and through its liberality and sympathy much money and valuable necessities were sent south for the benefit of the suffering negro. Many tracts, containing excellent advice, were also sent at various times. Mary Rogers was the first permanent minister of the Friends. Coming in November, 1867, she continued her work with unceasing energy and success until the fall of 1870.

The Missionary Baptist church, situated on the S.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 35, T. 25, R. 14, is one of the best finished churches in the county, being a building thirty feet wide by forty feet long, with sixteen-foot posts, and arched overhead, making it about twenty-three feet high in the center. It is beautifully finished, both inside and out. It is furnished with a baptistery under the pulpit. The auditorium will comfortably seat 250 persons. The steeple, in which swings a large, clear-toned bell, is built on a firm foundation separate from the church, forming a vestibule of the church, and is eighty feet high. Edmund King and John Depuy were the first Baptists in this portion of the town—the latter coming in 1870. Until the building known as the Heath school-house was erected, the meetings were held at Mr. Depuy's house, which soon became so largely attended, owing to the eloquent sermons of C. B. Seals, that they were compelled to move to Mr. Depuy's barn, in which they continued to be held until the finishing of the school-house. In a short time, by the zealous efforts and skillful management of the pioneer Baptists, the congregation outgrew the dimensions of the school-house. In the winter and spring of 1877, quite an interest was taken in regard to building a church, but owing to the lateness of the season when they had thoroughly made up their minds, it was postponed until the following August. In the latter part of July the failure of the crops prompted many members to object to building. But when "Uncle John" stepped forward and offered to build a church such as was desired, letting the society bear such a portion of the debt as they saw fit, they unanimously consented; consequently the building was commenced August 1, 1877, and was finished the latter part of October, at a cost of near \$2,500. Of this amount \$1,000 was repaid to Mr. Depuy by citizens generally about the neighborhood who were in sympathy with religious work. It was dedicated by J. M. Hobart,

of Chicago, October 28, 1877, at which time there was an active membership of 46 persons.

Evangelist Lutheran St. Paul church. Prior to 1870 there was scarcely a German family in the township; but ten years from this date it may be safely said the people of this nationality were in the majority. Soon after the arrival of a few of those men who seem to be born with the spirit and ability to lead, the building of a church was made the central idea, and as soon as the subscription showed a sufficient guaranty for all monies that might be expended, a place of worship was commenced on eight acres of land in the N.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 5, T. 25, R. 13, donated by Mr. Hartman and Mr. Scheiee, and to-day a building well finished, 30 feet wide by 46 feet long, built at a cost of \$2,400, stands as an honor to the energies of these people, and a nucleus around which a large majority of the German population gather every Sunday to be taught, that noblest of all lessons, the christian religion, by their excellent and conscientious pastor, C. F. Hartman. Prior to the finishing of the church the meetings were held in Mr. Lucke's house, which is now used by that gentleman as a granary. Their first minister was Gotlieb Traub, who came once every four weeks from Crete, Illinois, from the spring of 1872 up to the time of the dedication of the church and the installment of Mr. Hartman, and delivered a splendid sermon. The intervening Sundays they would assemble, and after Sabbath-school would listen to a sermon read by August Lucke. At the beginning of the church in the fall of 1873, there were but nine families connected with the organization, but now it has an active membership of seventy-two families. The first stewards of the church, who are elected every year, were: William Schmer, Philip Rediker and August Pffingsten. The first trustees, who are elected for a term of five years, were: August Lucke, Henry Munstermann and Dedrick Langelette. The present stewards are: August Lucke, Henry Reborg and Henry Bultmann. The present trustees are: August Pffingsten, Henry Munstermann and Philip Rediker. There is also a German school connected with the church. C. F. Hartman was the first teacher, and as such taught nothing but German four days in the week, using the remainder of the week to prepare his sermon for the following Sabbath. This continued until the fall of 1878, when the services of Herman Richert, a graduate of Edison College, Illinois, an institution under the direction of the Lutheran denomination, were obtained, who teaches German in the morning and English in the afternoon. There are seventy scholars in attendance. They have just completed



a frame school-house, two stories high, twenty feet wide by twenty-eight feet long, situated east of the church, at a cost of near \$1,000. It is well finished and furnished.

#### VILLAGES.

GLENWOOD, alias Pitchin, is the principal village of the township, and the political headquarters of all parties. It is situated about the center of the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 19, T. 25, R. 13, and is a village of about 150 inhabitants. Various stories are told as to how it received the name of Pitchin. The one having the most general circulation is that a suit was being tried wherein Stockwell was plaintiff and Bratton defendant, before Stephen Gipson, a justice of the peace, in 1864, the former suing for \$5 due him as wages. After the trial the jury were out but a few minutes, when they brought in a verdict in favor of the plaintiff for \$7, at which time a man by the name of Haun, a brother-in-law of Stockwell, began quarreling with Bratton and talking fight, when Bratton, who was all but coward, threw off his coat, rolled up his sleeves, squared himself and said, "Pitch in, if you are ready." John Peed was standing near, and said the place had been wanting a name long enough, and henceforth it must be called "Pitchin," which name it has since retained. Mr. Luther T. Clark, the ex-sheriff, whose former home was at this place, says that Stephen Gipson, an early blacksmith, and a fellow who, like many others, talked more than he thought, was first to call it "Pitchin." Every effort was put forth by the citizens to change this "horrid name," but to no effect, when, at the suggestion of John W. Riggs, the present circuit clerk, a meeting was held in his store one evening for the purpose of naming the "critter." Mr. Riggs was unanimously voted chairman, and after calling the meeting to order, stated the object and requested them to suggest a few names from which to select, whereupon the following names were proposed: Sherman, by Mr. Carlton; Eagle Village, by William Smith; Grant, by one of his admirers, and Sheridan, by a soldier. But when J. W. Riggs proposed the name of Glenwood, it was carried amid a perfect storm of applause.

The first building was the house erected by Mr. Nunamaker, who occupied it with his family for many years. It has since been destroyed. But soon after another was finished on the original spot by Luther T. Clark, which is now owned by Wesley Harvey. The Methodist parsonage, a dwelling 20×24, one and a half stories, was next, and was built in 1851 or 1852. It is still standing, and occupied. Mr. Nunamaker about this time commenced keeping a few goods for

sale, and continued selling until almost the time when the farm was sold to Mr. Clark. Mr. Clark brought some goods from Dearborn county, Indiana, and after erecting a building  $18 \times 32$ , east of the house, on the Nunamaker farm, was engaged in the mercantile business some years. About this time Mr. Alonzo Taylor also kept a few goods for sale. Mr. Boggs was the next to build, his being a box house  $16 \times 18$ . About this time he also built near his house the first steam saw and grist mill in the township, near the present site of Mrs. Hamilton's house. Dr. Horner moved a house here in 1856, which was situated between five and six rods west of Boggs' mill. Stephen Gipson soon followed, building a house and blacksmith shop about eight rods south of the mill. Here he worked a few years, when he sold to Joseph Davis in 1860. William T. Duke was the pioneer wagon maker, having his shop in a portion of the blacksmith shop. William B. Crider built a two-story house, now occupied by Mr. Buckley, south of Mr. Harvey's store about ten rods. In 1864 Joel R. Smith built a house and grocery store combined. In 1866 Mr. Smith sold to Mr. Harvey, who moved the goods into the store building used by J. B. Clark after it was moved on the school-house lot, south of the place now occupied by his present store. In 1867 Mr. Harvey sold a half interest to Mr. E. S. Hamilton, who continued a partner until 1870, when the whole passed into Mr. Hamilton's hands. But at his death, in 1876, Mr. Harvey became the owner. The building now used was built in 1873,  $24 \times 50$ , with an addition  $24 \times 16$ , being the largest business house in Glenwood. In the spring of 1865 John W. Riggs built a store and dwelling combined, two stories high, east of Mr. Harvey's store, where he lived and sold goods about three years. He sold to James Hockett, who sold, after two years' experience, to Charles Newel. He soon disposed of the stock of goods, and converted the building into a hotel, thus gaining the honor of being the first landlord of the "Grand Pacific" of Glenwood.

The Ash Grove Lodge, No. 376, A.F. and A.M., was instituted in 1864, holding its first meetings in the upper story of the house now owned by David Montgomery, and afterward in a room fitted up in the second story of Mr. Hamilton's house, with the following officers and charter members: George F. Keath, W.M.; George W. Redkey, S.W.; Clement Thomas, J.W.; E. S. Hamilton, treasurer; Joel R. Smith, secretary; George Nunamaker, William F. Horner and Wesley Harvey. At the height of its prosperity the lodge numbered 25 members, but owing to so many moving to vari-

ous parts of the county the organization became small, and surrendered its charter in 1876.

WOODWORTH, located on the northwest corner of Mr. Lucke's farm, in Sec. 4, T. 25, R. 13 W., began its history with the blacksmith shop of Fred Krueger in the year 1874. On the 1st of May, 1875, Fred Meyer opened a store with a stock of goods. In the summer of 1875 came Fred Hartman, a wagonmaker, who was followed, in the course of a year, by Hardekulp, the shoemaker, with his family. William Becker opened a harness-shop in the fall of 1879. The town was named after Mr. Woodworth, of Milford, to repay him for his services in assisting them to secure their post-office, which is held in Mr. Meyer's store, with himself as postmaster.

QUEEN CITY is situated on the S.E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 2, T. 25, R. 13, and received its name from John Schmer, an enterprising business man, who for the past six years has been engaged in a prosperous mercantile business, building the first store in the place. His was also the first dwelling erected in the village. There is now in this little place a blacksmith, a wagon and carriage maker, and a shoemaker, each doing a fair business. A Lutheran church is in course of erection.

#### BIOGRAPHICAL.

Clement Thomas, farmer, Ash Grove, is one of the grandest characters in our history. The lights and shadows of sixty long years have come and gone, but left a venerable old pioneer hale, buoyant and genial, possessed of a memory retaining the characteristics of men and course of events with a tenacity truly astonishing and wonderful in the extreme, who has seen and is able to correctly narrate more of the early history of the first settlements than any one of the old settlers now living with whom he was connected by the ties of early recollections. He was born June 22, 1820, in Adams county, Ohio, near the Marvel furnace. Living here about eight years, he with his parents came to Indiana, settling about ten miles south of Lafayette. In March, 1831, the family came to Iroquois county, settling on the prairie about a mile east of the present village of Milford, preëmpting a quarter-section, which after three years was sold to David Cleaver. They then moved one mile south of Milford, purchasing the improvements of James Osborn, on the N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 22, T. 25, R. 12, which to this day is known as the Thomas farm. When Mr. Thomas had arrived at the age of twenty-two years he purchased a farm of 80 acres for himself, about a mile east of his father's place, in the spring of 1843. This he



worked until he purchased the water-mill property in Milford, in the spring of 1852. Here he was engaged in sawing and grinding six years, at the expiration of which time he moved south of Milford, but in the fall of the same year again returned, running a blacksmith shop during the winter. He again moved south of Milford, and in the spring of 1860 came to that portion of Ash Grove township now set off as a portion of Fountain Creek, and from here, in 1874, to his present home, on Secs. 20 and 29, T. 25, R. 13. Mr. Thomas was first married, April 21, 1842, to Miss Mary Lewis, near Milford, and is now living with his fourth wife, to whom he was married at Covington, Indiana, June 5, 1875. Her former name was Nancy Payton. He is the father of twelve children, four of whom are living: Samuel, Lavina, Marcus and Emma. He is a Mason, having joined that order at Middleport in 1848, since which time he has been a charter member of both the Milford and Ash Grove lodges. He is a republican, formerly a whig, as was also his father, who died in April, 1870, and his mother in the fall of 1832. Mr. Thomas has, we dare say, the first bond ever given for a deed in the county. It was made by James Osborn to Asa Thomas for land in Sec. 22, T. 25, R. 12, dated March 12, 1834, and written by Hugh Newel, the first clerk at Bunkum.

Wesley Harvey, the successful merchant of Glenwood, is the only one of the old pioneers of this section of country left. All save him have passed the line of human woe. He is an honest, earnest, practical christian gentleman. He came to Ash Grove in the summer of 1837, and has had a large and varied experience in frontier life. He was born near Salem, the county seat of Washington county, Indiana, on a farm, January 1, 1821. His mother dying when he was but three years of age, young Wesley went to live with his uncle, William Harvey, where he stayed until his father married again. Returning home, he lived with his parents until eight years old, when he again went to live with an uncle, this time Lewis Brock, Sr., and here he lived until he was twelve, when through adverse circumstances Mr. Harvey was thrown out upon the cold world to care for himself. He immediately hired for \$3.50 per month to Isaac Ferris, in Lawrence county, Indiana, early in the spring of 1833. Here he stayed but three months; his father, learning his whereabouts and condition, came and took him to his home in Monroe county, Indiana, where he stayed about two years, in the summer working for from \$4 to \$6 per month, and in the winter attending the public school. In June, 1835, he arrived at his uncle's in Washington county, but sickness prevented him from working until in the fall, when he started for

White county, Indiana, to live with his brother-in-law, Allen Brock. This was made his home until the summer of 1837, when he, a boy of but sixteen years, accompanied Mr. Brock to Iroquois county, and made the home of this genial gentleman his until he was married in 1841. Mr. Harvey then built a cabin and improved a farm on government land in Sec. 30, T. 25, R. 13, now owned by E. Hickman. This place was tilled nearly three years, when he purchased the old Lewis Brock, Sr., farm, improving a couple of others, and finally purchasing the old Nunamaker farm on section 19 of a quarter-section, which he still owns. Here Mr. Harvey worked until his health failed him, and being no longer able to perform the hard work on a farm, purchased a small stock of goods of Joel R. Smith of about \$800. To this he has been continually adding, till he has a fine stock of general merchandise, varying from \$4,000 to \$5,000, in which business he has since remained in various capacities. His was the sixth wedding that occurred in the township, March 26, 1841, to Miss Mary Henry. They had but one child: George Allen, who died when but two years old. His wife also died August 27, 1859. Mr. Harvey was married the second time, February 10, 1861, to Mary A. Brock. By this union they have had two children: George William, who died in his third year, and William Henry, now in his sixteenth year. Mr. Harvey is a Mason, joining that order in 1865; is a republican in politics, formerly a whig, and joined the M. E. church in 1845, and has held the offices of steward and class leader for many years. He has also held the office of supervisor, being the township's second officer. He has been justice of the peace, assessor, and has held various other positions.

B. F. Hillis, farmer, Ash Grove, is a young man of more than ordinary ability, and one whose reputation as a literary character is by no means confined to his township. Every reader of the "Watseka Republican" has perused that portion written weekly by this correspondent and essayist with satisfaction and delight, and this alone has won for him a most enviable reputation throughout the county. He was born on a farm near Lebanon, Indiana, July 6, 1842. Here his parents died while he was quite young, at which time he went to live with his brother-in-law, G. F. Keath, and came to this county with him in the spring of 1852, settling on a farm in Fountain Creek township. Mr. Hillis attended school in Lebanon, Indiana, in 1857, and at Sugar Grove academy, Indiana, during the academic year of 1858-59. Starting to Greencastle, Indiana, in the fall of 1859, he pursued an excellent course of instruction until the fall of 1861. While here that patriotic sentiment which at this time

filled so many hearts, throbbed in his, and through a sense of duty to his country, he enlisted to protect her freedom October 20, 1861, at Ash Grove, in Co. C, 10th Ill. Cav., under Col. James Barrett, and was mustered out February 5, 1864. His principal engagements were Brownsville, Arkansas, Marmaduke's raid, Bayou Matarie, and Little Rock. His regiment was also sent to reinforce Gen. Banks, at Shreveport (but never reached that point, owing to so strong an opposition, being under heavy fire for many days), and Saline river. Since his return from the army he has been engaged in sinking artesian wells, and by frugal habits and dint of a grim determination, has a beautiful little home of 40 acres on Sec. 18, T. 25, R. 13. He joined the M. E. church at Wesley chapel, in the winter of 1868. He is a stalwart republican.

Ephraim S. Hamilton (deceased) was in all probability the greatest trader, the most energetic and successful business man ever in Ash Grove township. He was born on the Atlantic ocean, January 12, 1827. In their voyage to America the family were shipwrecked, and after many days of worry, fright and fear, reached New York some time before the 1st of February. His father's name was Edward L., his mother's Rose Ann, and they were both born in Ireland. Mr. Hamilton's father was engaged a few years at farming in Pennsylvania, also near Springfield, Ohio. From this place they moved to Lebanon, Indiana, where both lived to an honored old age, and died. Mr. Hamilton learned the cooper trade when but eighteen years of age, and as soon as he was master of all matters connected with this employment erected a shop in Lebanon, operating it about five years. From here he moved to Vermilion county, Indiana, near what is now Rossville, in Jordan township, purchasing 160 acres. This he improved and had under a fine state of cultivation, when, thinking advantages superior in Illinois, he came to Iroquois county in the fall of 1855, and preëmpted a quarter-section about seven and a half miles northeast of the village of Loda. To this he continually added, until a half-section belonged to him. Mr. Hamilton in the course of five years became disgusted with prairie life, and June 26, 1860, traded his farm of 160 acres for Mr. Boggs' saw-mill in Glenwood. Here he labored for some time with unrelenting energy, until he engaged in the business to which he was naturally adapted, general trading, buying and shipping stock. At this he was eminently successful, and gradually accumulated a handsome property, among which was a fine homestead of 500 acres, upon which the family now live, in Sec. 19. In 1867 Mr. H. purchased a half interest in Mr. Harvey's store, and in 1870 the whole of it



passed into his hands, and remained so until his death, June 13, 1876. He was formerly a whig, but a republican from the birth of the party until his death. He was also a truly christian gentleman and a Mason, joining that order at Williamsport, in 1852. Mr. Hamilton was married October 27, 1850, to Celia B. Miller, at Lebanon, Indiana, by which union he became the father of six children, three of whom are still living, Mary Anna, Walter L., Francis E., Rosa S., Isaac M. and Edna.

Robert Clifton, farmer and stock-raiser, Woodland, although not a very early settler, is a fine representative of the northeast corner of Ash Grove. He was born in Warren county, Indiana, near Attica, February 26, 1838, and lived with his parents until he developed fully into manhood, obtaining quite a liberal education. He moved to Iroquois county in the fall of 1865, settling on Sec. 1, T. 25, R. 13, where he now has a large farm, 273 acres in all, finely improved, and preparations far advanced toward building a stately addition to his house. He was married to Miss Nancy C. John, November 17, 1867, who is the daughter of the venerable Lemuel John, an old pioneer who settled in Iroquois county south of Watseka, while the Indians still inhabited the timber along the creek in what is now Belmont township, and who died November 30, 1851, his wife living until May 11, 1867. Mrs. Clifton is a member of the Methodist church. Mr. Clifton is the father of two children: Sarah F. and Mary C., aged respectively ten and seven years. In politics he is a democrat, casting his first vote for the "Little Giant" Stephen A. Douglas. He is also a member of the Watseka Masonic fraternity, having joined that lodge in December, 1873, and has held the unthankful office of school director for four years.

Emmet Clements, farmer, Onarga, is a man who has spent a large portion of the best years of his life in the service of his country, and to say it was not spent nobly would be casting a reproach upon her fair and honored name. He was born July 12, 1841, in Sullivan county, New York, where his early years were spent upon a farm and in school. At the age of eighteen, with his parents, he moved to Liberty Village, where he spent his time preparing for a higher course of study, intending to enter Lafayette College in the fall of 1861; but on the call for protectors of his country, a sense of duty and love of patriotism prompted him to sacrifice his love for a college education, home and friends and start for the tented field; enlisting at Liberty, Sullivan county, New York, October 1, 1861, in Co. F, 56th N. Y. Vol. He was mustered out October 11, 1864. His principal engagements were the battles of Williamsburg, Fair Oaks,

Wade's Farm, Savage's Station, Bottoms Bridge and Malvern Hill. Mr. Clements, being a civil engineer by profession, served the last year of the war, and up to the winter of 1867, in that capacity, surveying the lands purchased by the government for taxes. He also took the topography of the country around Port Royal, North Carolina, and assisted in laying out the fort at this place; and while here engaged in looking through a telescope, was seriously wounded, which was pronounced at the time by an eminent surgeon to be fatal, but through good care he gradually recovered. In the winter of 1867, while on his way to some western territory to engage in a survey he was taken sick at Sycamore, Illinois, where he had stopped to visit friends, and, as soon as he was able to move about, resigned his position to accept a situation as cashier in the bank of Pierce, Dean & Co., of Sycamore, which was then doing a thriving business, having an average yearly deposit of \$150,000. In a year's time his health again failed him, and he was compelled to give up all work of a sedentary character. Farming was chosen, and in February, 1868, he purchased a farm on Sec. 1, T. 25, R. 14, where he now has a home of 500 acres. Mr. Clements, in political belief, is an independent republican; was appointed school treasurer for T. 25, R. 14, November 1, 1874, which position he now holds, and was elected supervisor in the spring of 1876, honorably serving his town one term. He is a man who has seen much of the world, and is wide awake to all matters of public concern, and an excellent citizen.

Samuel Washburne, farmer and stock-raiser, Milford, is an uncompromising enemy to all kinds of hypocrisy, show and deceit, and a thorough business man. He was born August 9, 1838, in Granby, Oswego county, New York, on a farm, where he lived with his parents until twenty-one years of age. The summer of 1860 was spent in Saginaw, Michigan, lumbering, where he held the position of sawyer in the mill of John Taylor. In the fall he returned to New York, and was engaged as superintendent in his brother's mill at Battle Island until the fall of 1861, and from this on till the fall of 1862 was engaged in threshing and various other occupations, when he was employed at New Haven, New York, until June, 1863, at which time he returned to Granby and assisted in building and running a steam saw-mill. This fall he was again threshing, while the following winter and a portion of the summer were spent in the mill (as superintendent) which he assisted in building. July 12, 1864, he arrived at Bristol, Kendal county, Illinois, prospecting, his family reaching him August 16 following. His stay in this neat little

village was short, for in November of the same year he settled in Plano, Illinois, and in the winter was engaged in lumbering and milling. Near this place he commenced farming, and followed that occupation with splendid success four years. March 4, 1869, Mr. Washburne arrived in Iroquois county, settling on Sec. 14, T. 25, R. 13, where he still lives, owning the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the section. December 30, 1860, he was married to Miss Jane A. Lee, at Hannibal, New York. They have four children living: Flora E., born October 9, 1862; Jesse L., January 14, 1865; Netta May, February 3, 1867; Charlotte E., September 20, 1868. He has also living with him his brother's child, George T., who was left an orphan at four years of age. He has been school director ever since he has been in the county, save six months; was elected commissioner in the spring of 1874. He is a firm republican, casting his first presidential vote for Lincoln in 1860.

James Crangle, farmer, Woodworth, is a man of stern will and untiring energy. He was born March 17, 1832, in Down county, Ireland, and left with his parents for America when but nine years of age and settled near Morris, in Grundy county, Illinois, where he resided until he came to Iroquois county, March 4, 1869. On August 10, 1862, Mr. Crangle enlisted in the 72d Ill. Vol., under Col. Fred. Staring, being the first regiment fitted out by the board of trade in Chicago. His first engagement was Champion Hill, and on the 19th of May at the charge of Vicksburg, also on the 22d. He was also in the battle of Franklin and several skirmishes. He was married, November 29, 1855, to Miss Bridgett Farrell, at Brookfield, La Salle county, Illinois, to whom eleven children have been born, five boys and six girls. Mr. Crangle has held several important public offices. He was first elected a justice of the peace in 1860, in Grundy county, and held the office for eight years; and after his settling in Ash Grove township, where he has a good home of a quarter of a section, he was elected supervisor in the spring of 1878, and again in 1879, still representing his town honorably on the county board. To Mr. Crangle is due the honor of settling the railroad bonds so satisfactorily to a majority of the citizens of his town. His first majority was 102, being the largest ever received by any candidate for that office in his town, the issue being the enjoining of the payment of the bonds. He is a democrat, casting his first vote for James Buchanan. His father died in 1850, and his mother, in Ireland, in 1863, having gone back to that country to live the remainder of her days.

Enoch Lindley, farmer, Ash Grove, the leading representative of



the Friends' church in Ash Grove, is a most exemplary character, and a kind-hearted, social christian gentleman. He was born in Orange county, Indiana, near Paoli, on a farm, September 16, 1828, where he lived with his parents on one of the finest farms of 400 acres in that section of country, until the spring of 1857, when, with his family, he moved to Hendricks county, Indiana, eighteen miles west of Indianapolis, and near Belleville. Here Mr. Lindley engaged in farming and with splendid success until the spring of 1865, when he came to Iroquois county, and settled on 80 acres in the N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Secs. 14 and 40 in the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sec. 11, T. 25, R. 14, and has since built him a very convenient dwelling. Near Paoli this excellent gentleman received his early education in the country school, attending about three months each year, in the winter, until he arrived at the age of twenty-one years. In the fall of 1851 he commenced at the high school, now known as Earlham College, at which place he pursued a splendid, practical course of study for fourteen months in succession. From this time forward previous to his moving to Hendricks county, in the summer, he was engaged at farming, and averaged a four-months school each winter teaching. Mr. Lindley was married, September 19, 1855, to Miss Malinda Bales. By this union they have been blessed with four children, all living: Charles E., Flora E., Ida B. and Clara May. In political faith he is a staunch republican, formerly a whig, casting his first presidential vote for General Scott. He is a member of the Society of Friends, as is also his hospitable wife, and has held at different times various important offices in the church.

George Sinderson, farmer, Onarga, can well claim the honor of having one of the neatest homes and farms in the township, which has all been made through the economic saving of a once poor boy. He was born January 12, 1830, in the pleasant little village of Alk Borough, England. Living here with his parents until his fourteenth year he began work for himself, at the paltry sum of one dollar per month. This was continued with constantly increasing wages until he had arrived at the age of twenty-four. In October, 1853, thinking free America was the proper home for poor industrious young men, he started for the great republic, but owing to a wreck about 1,200 miles out from shore, they returned to their native land after many severe trials and weary days. Upon his arrival Mr. Sinderson was employed as foreman of a large tenant farm, which position he held until his successful attempt to reach America. Landing in Philadelphia June 20, 1856, after a few days' sickness, he pushed on to Logan county, Illinois, near Lincoln, at which place he was engaged in

farming fourteen years, coming to Iroquois county February 8, 1870, where he had purchased the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 12, T. 25, R. 14. Mr. Sinderson's education in school was such as could be obtained a few winters prior to fourteen years of age. He was married in Crossby, England, May 17, 1853, to Miss Ann Wright, and is now the father of eight children. Evelina is dead, while Charles E., William H., George W., Jane E., Thomas N., Mary A. and Kate are all living. He is a member of the M. E. church, and for many years held the offices of steward and class-leader, and has been school director and road commissioner. Mr. Sinderson was thoroughly imbued with the principles of the republican party before coming to this country, and since his naturalization has been an earnest supporter of that organization.

If there is one man more than another in Ash Grove township possessed of an iron will and a terrible energy, capable of surmounting every difficulty that arises before road commissioners, that man is Edward Stimpson, farmer. He was born January 30, 1836, in Sutton, upon the river Trent, in Nottinghamshire county, England. His father was a day laborer, who, thinking his advantages would be improved, brought his family to America, landing in New York October 1, 1850. From here they went to Albany, where Mr. Stimpson was hired to a weaver, where he was engaged in weaving coach lace at one dollar per week, but by application and a sturdy energy in less than a year his wages were raised to one dollar per day. In the fall of 1851 he went to Geneseo, New York, where he was engaged in blacksmithing and various other occupations. In the fall of 1854 he came to Aurora, Illinois, where he was engaged as a farm hand. At this place his father was seriously injured by the cars and was disabled for many weeks. The task of supporting a large family now devolved upon young Edward, but it was performed faithfully and willingly. In the spring of 1860 he moved to Lockport, Will county, Illinois, and renting a farm of Ichabod Coddington, the great anti-slavery agitator, followed that occupation four years. He next farmed in DeKalb county, and afterward moved to Plano, Kendall county, where he was engaged in raising small fruits, coming to Iroquois county in the spring of 1870, renting for a while, and now owns the N.W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Sec. 11, T. 25, R. 13. He was married, December 24, 1858, to Miss Mary Cox, at Aurora, Illinois. They now have nine children: Jesse B., Anna E., Thomas R., Fannie R., Hallie L., Sallie P., Susie E., Celia C. and Edna E. He and his wife are members of the M. E. church. He is a republican, casting his first presidential vote for A. Lincoln in 1860. He was elected commis-

sioner in 1877, and received the nomination of his party in 1880 for the same office.

August Lucke, farmer and stock-raiser, Woodworth, is a man possessed of a high moral character, a finely organized brain, and a man whose influence in Ash Grove political affairs is felt on every side. He was born October 4, 1828, in Hesse, Germany, at which place he lived until he arrived at the age of eighteen years. Coming to America with his parents he landed in Chicago, July 6, 1847. Mr. Lucke's father was acquainted with a Hessian who fought in the American revolution, and was constantly telling of the advantages in America. He was also acquainted with a gentleman of considerable means, who had several times shipped sheep to this country, always bringing back glowing accounts of free America, which Mr. Lucke thinks influenced his parents, to a certain extent, to emigrate. Upon his arrival in Chicago young August hired to a milkman for \$6 per month. Here he remained one year, when, thinking a couple of years as clerk would be of lasting benefit to him, he hired to A. T. Stewart. At the expiration of his time here he was engaged for one year at carpentering in Cook county, that being his trade he learned in Germany, and after farming another year moved to Crete, Will county, Illinois, where he busied himself at farming until the spring of 1872. From this place he came to Iroquois county, where he purchased land on the W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sec. 4, T. 25, R. 13, a fine farm of 360 acres. Mr. Lucke finished school at the age of fourteen, having attended every year from the time he was six, save a short time in harvest of each year. He was married, July 23, 1853, in Crete, to Miss Sophia Hue. They have seven children living. In Crete Mr. Lucke held the offices of assessor and collector each one year. In Iroquois he was elected assessor in the springs of 1878 and 1879, and was elected school trustee in 1875. He is a strong member of the Lutheran church and one of its officers. He was formerly an independent, but is now a republican, casting his first presidential vote for J. C. Fremont.

Frederick Breymeyer, farmer, Woodworth, was born in Germany, in the village of Merbeck, May 18, 1847. In compliance with the laws of that country in regard to education, Mr. Breymeyer attended the public school from the age of six years to fourteen, for nine months each year. The remainder of the time a private tutor was employed to instruct young Fred until he came to America with his parents, August 15, 1862. Arriving at Crete, Will county, Illinois, at the time stated above, his father purchased a partially improved farm of 160 acres, upon which he worked for his father until his twenty-



fourth year, attending the evening school in Crete during the winter session after their arrival. His parents then moving to Kansas gave him, for his work at home and good behavior, 80 acres of the farm, which, after working one year longer, Mr. Brey Meyer traded for the place upon which he now lives, of 111 acres, on Sec. 6, T. 25, R. 13, soon after purchasing 40 more. He was married to Miss Sophia Lucke, the daughter of one of the most influential men in Ash Grove township, February 9, 1873, at the handsome and commodious residence of her father. By this union they have two children: Sophia and August. He is now a staunch republican, although casting his first vote for Horatio Seymour. He has been for six years director of his district, and one of the stewards of the Lutheran Evangelist church, of which he is a member, for the year 1876-7.

John F. W. Meier, farmer and stock-raiser, Woodworth, is one of the most genial, social and kind-hearted men in Ash Grove township. He was born in Will county, Illinois, near Crete, on a farm, June 22, 1849. He lived here with his parents until he was twenty-five years of age, working in the summer and attending the district school in the winter until he reached nineteen. From this place he came to Ash Grove township in 1874, where he purchased the S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Sec. 3, T. 25, R. 13, upon which he soon built a house surpassed by none in the town, and has just completed a commodious barn 48 feet wide, 60 long and 20 high. July 9, 1874, he married Miss Sophia Scheiwe, in Will county, near where he was raised. By this union they have three charming little ones living: John H., William and Caroline. Mr. Meier's mother died in 1869, while his father is still living on his farm near Crete, Illinois. Mr. Meier is an independent republican, casting his first presidential vote for Gen. Grant in 1872. He is also a member of the Lutheran church, having joined that organization in the fall of 1874, and was elected treasurer of the board of stewards January 1, 1876, holding that office four years.

John Schwer, merchant, Woodland, the subject of this sketch, is a natural merchant, having started in life as a clerk when but fourteen years of age, and continuing in that line for twelve years, he has reached that high degree of perfection which comes only through application and a sturdy perseverance. He was born August 20, 1853, in the pleasant little village of Crete, Will county, Illinois, and left home and parents to engage in his chosen pursuit in the year 1867. His first experience was with G. Brauns, in Crete, in a store containing a stock of goods of every description. He then went to Chicago, engaging himself in the grocery store of Mr. Hurxthall, on South Halsted street. From here he went to the grocery store of

William Baltermann, on the same street, in which place he was employed a year and a half. Mr. Schwer, thinking his business education incomplete without a knowledge of the dry-goods business, next engaged himself to the well known dry-goods house of Charlie Hourstel, on the same street, in which place he was employed for five successive years. A short time was then spent in the dry-goods store of M. Burlitzheimer, on the same street. His next experience was with his old employer, Mr. Hourstel, in whose store he stayed about a year longer, and after three years' further experience with Wolff Brothers, on South Halsted street, he left the city, intending to commence business for himself, which he soon did at Queen City, Illinois, situated on section 2, Ash Grove township, May 25, 1876. He was married, September 15, 1878, to Miss Auguste Jaeger, at Mequon River, Wisconsin. Mr. Schwer has one child, a boy, born December 28, 1879, Walter R. W. L. He is independent in politics.













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